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A

FAMILY PRAYER-BOOK:

CONTAINING

FORMS OF MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS,

FOR A FORTNIGHT.

WITH THOSE FOR

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

By Charles Brooks

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
Joshua.

SECOND EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED.

DIVINITY SCHOOL LIBRARY HARVARD UNIVERSITY

BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY CUMMINGS, HILLIARD & CO.

HILLIARD AND METCALF, PRINTERS.
1823.

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO WIT:

District Clerk's office.

BE it remembered, that on the twenty-first day of August A. D. 1823, and in the forty-eighth year of the independence of the United States of America, Cummings, Hilliard & Co. of the said district have deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as proprietors, in the words following, viz.

"A Family Prayer-Book: containing Forms of Morning and Evening Prayers, for a fortnight. With those for Religious Societies and Individuals.—'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.'—Joshua. Second Edition, revised and enlarged".

In conformity to the act of the congress of the United States, entitled "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned;" and also to an act, entitled "An act supplementary to an act, entitled "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

J. W. DAVIS, Clerk of the District of Massachusetts.

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B873fa
1823

FAMILY PRAYER-BOOK.

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TO HEADS OF FAMILIES.

RESPECTED CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,

A new edition of this Family Prayer-Book having been solicited, it now appears, considerably enlarged, and carefully revised. The prayers have been composed and selected with continual reference to the high and sacred objects of religion:—To you, therefore, they are respectfully submitted as the expression of an earnest wish to advance the spirit of true devotion, and pure Christianity.

Hingham, August, 1823.

PRAYERS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. As the children of thy family, and the objects of thy care, we would now come to dedicate to thee the lives thou hast spared through another night. Thine ever watchful providence hath been over us for our safety. We have laid ourselves down and slept, and have awaked; because thou hast sustained us. With grateful and humble joy would we hail the return of this day, consecrated to the special exercises of piety, the instructions of religion, and the outward worship of thee our God. We bless thee for the institution of a day of sacred rest; a day set apart from worldly cares and employments; a day, which we are to keep holy by worshipping thee, who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth. In the name, and as the disciples of Jesus Christ, we would present our united tribute of prayer and praise to thee, our Crea-

tor, Preserver, and Benefactor. We would acknowledge thee, as the only living and true God; the high and lofty One, who inhabitest eternity. Thou, O God, dwellest not in temples made with hands; the universe is thy temple. Thy mind pervades creation. We cannot retire from thy presence. Our thoughts and purposes are exposed to thy view, and thou knowest more of us than we know of ourselves. Thine eye is at this moment upon us. O God, most holy, we come to ask for mercy, because we have sinned; and to implore the influences of thy spirit, because in thee is our hope. We rejoice that there is one above us, who is infinitely wise, infinitely powerful, and infinitely good; who loveth us more than any other being loves us; who careth for us more than any other being can care far us; who careth for us more than we care for ourselves.

Heavenly Father, we desire to sanctify this day, as we ought, to thee: and as we now remember with gratitude the salvation of the night past, may we this day meditate upon the salvation, which is offered us in the gospel. May we, with lively faith, remember him who died that we might live; and so attend to the things that concern our everlasting peace, that this day may be as one of the days of heaven to our

souls. Gladly may we embrace the opportunities, with which, as a family, we are favoured, to go up together to the place, where thy name is adored, and where pardon and acceptance are proclaimed in Jesus Christ. Dispose us, we entreat thee, to engage in the solemn duties of thy house, with sincerity and fervour. May we have the spirit of Jesus; so that our devotions may be pure and exalted. With attention and candour, may we receive the instructions and admonitions of the Christian preacher. With submission of heart, may we bow to the authority of thy precepts; and with gladness may we receive the declarations and promises of thy mercy. With ardent desires may we ask spiritual blessings for ourselves; and with true charity intercede for others.

O Lord, we are thy servants, bound to give thee that which cometh from thy hands. We would this morning consecrate ourselves to thee in the deepest solemnity; resigning to thee those hearts which thou hast formed for thyself; surrendering all we possess to thy gracious disposal, humbly praying that nothing may ever separate us from thy love. Thus beginning the life of heaven here, may we attain its full enjoyment hereafter.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

while with gratitude we remember our distinguished privileges, we devoutly pray that they may be extended to all the children of thy great family; so that all may know thee, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

Be merciful, O Lord, to the whole human race. Known unto thee are all their wants, and thou art able to do exceeding abundantly above what we can ask or think. From thee, who art plenteous in goodness, may they severally receive those blessings which are expedient for them. May our relations and friends obtain that favour in thy sight, which thou bearest to them that love thee: and, in every thing that concerns them, may they be under the direction of that wisdom, which can alone determine what will be most conducive to their present and eternal welfare.

*

O Father, we again ask thy presence and blessing with us this day; and may we spend it, knowing it may be the last Sabbath we shall see on earth. Hear us, through him who is the way, the truth, and the life, while we ascribe to thee, God over all, praises everlasting. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

O THOU, who hearest prayer! We acknowledge thee, the only proper object of religious worship. Thou art God in heaven above; and upon the earth beneath there is none else. Thou art the first, and thou the last. Thou art God alone. We would think of thine attributes, with profound veneration and with cheerful trust. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory. In every place we are surrounded, supported, inspected by thee. If we ascend into heaven, thou art there;—if we make our bed in the grave, lo! thou art there;—if we take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there thy hand shall lead us, and thy right hand shall hold us. Thou knowest our downsitting and our uprising, and art acquainted with all our ways.

Power also belongeth unto thee, O God. In thee is everlasting strength; and none can stay thine hand, or say unto thee,—What doest thou? Thy wisdom is equal to thy power. Thine understanding is infinite. Thou art light, and in thee is no darkness.

O the depth of the wisdom and knowledge of God! Holy art thou, O Lord, in all thy works.

Just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints! We would give thanks at the remembrance of thy holiness.

Though clouds and darkness are round about thee, justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne.

Good art thou, O Lord, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Thou art love, and as a father pitieth his children, so thou hast compassion on those who fear thee. We will give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endureth forever. Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vine, the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flocks shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stall; yet will we rejoice in the Lord; we will joy in the God of our salvation.

Heavenly Father, when we bow before thee, may we remember the solemn duties of prayer, —and when we take thy name upon our lips, may we have serious and collected minds, knowing that while man looks upon the outward appearance, thou the Lord lookest upon the heart.

O God, most high and holy, we come, sensible of the presence in which we stand; and though it is weakness which addresses omnipotence;

and though it is ignorance which supplicates perfect wisdom; and though it is the voice of imperfection, to a being of spotless purity; yet we come with childlike confidence, in that new and living way, which thou has appointed to the sinful children of men; believing thou wilt hear our prayers and pardon our transgressions.

We beseech thee to accept our most grateful acknowledgments, for the unspeakable blessings of the Gospel. Never can we sufficiently thank thee for that exalted Saviour, whom thou didst raise up to bless mankind, by turning them away from their iniquities. We bless thee, that for this end he was born, and for this cause came he into the world, that he might bear witness to the truth; and we believe he is the Christ the Son of the living God. We thank thee for the disclosures he made of thy paternal character, and of our duties and destination. We bless thee for his doctrines and his example; and when he was delivered up for our offences, we devoutly thank God, that he was raised again for our justification, and became the first fruits of them that slept. Praised be God who hath begotten us to a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through him we look to thy mercy for the forgiveness of our sins; and for grace to help in future times of need. With

Jesus Christ before us, may we have that godly sorrow, which worketh repentance unto salvation. May we in prayer and penitence have the renewing influences of christianity effectual in our souls; so that forgetting the things that are behind, we may press forward to the mark for the prize of our high calling of God in Christ Jesus. In future may we suffer no iniquity to have the dominion over us; but may we be filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Holy Father! with true gratitude for thy sustaining care, would we ever welcome the return of a day devoted to the sacred interests of religion. We thank thee for the many advantages and pleasures of public worship, which we have this day enjoyed. May this be among the sabbaths in which we have so meditated upon thy character, as to have elevated our piety and purified our hearts. O may we not abuse the means of grace, by resting in them, but carefully keep in view the end they are designed to answer. Whenever we go to the house of worship with our brethren, to present our prayers to thee with a lively faith in thy Son, may we have a firm trust in thy love, and perfect charity for all mankind. May we have the mind that was in Christ Jesus; and thus

may religion prepare us for the changing scenes of life, for the solemn hour of death, and for the day of judgment.

*

Grant thy presence and blessing, O God, to thy faithful ministers of all denominations. While they dispense the word of truth with sincerity, may they be successful in reforming the wicked, instructing the ignorant, and in having christianity acknowledged in all its worth, and felt in all its power. Help the good in every land to diffuse light and true religion. Bless all our churches; and hasten, we pray thee, the time when thy name shall be honoured and adored throughout the earth; when all nations shall acknowledge thee alone, their common Father, and Jesus Christ their common Saviour. In his name we offer our prayers; and at the close of this day, consecrated to the memory of his resurrection, we humbly ask thy favour, protection, and blessing; while we ascribe to thee, the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

O God, the Creator of the world and of all things therein! Our souls would bow with reverence before thee in prayer, feeling as feeble as we ought in the presence of our Maker. Because thou, O Lord, art good, and gracious, and powerful, we come to thee, and we would have thee on every side to strengthen, animate, guide, and console. May we be in thee, and wilt thou be in us. We would see the displays of thee in nature. The heavens declare thy glory, and the firmament sheweth forth thy handy work; day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge of thee.

Thou art the God of our lives; and we lift up our souls unto thee, with the voice of thanksgiving, for thy merciful care of us the past night; and humbly implore the continuance of thy protection and blessing through the following day. With renewed vigour we would praise thee, who hast caused us to sleep in peace, and awake in safety. To thy service, O our heavenly Preserver and Benefactor, we devote our invigorated powers, both of body and mind. May we go forth to the various labours and employments of our stations, under a deep sense of our

obligations to thee; and may we be in thy fear all the day long. O may a sense of thy presence, a regard to thine authority, and the hope of thy gracious acceptance, direct all our views, and govern all our actions. If we should, this day, be tempted by the prospect of unrighteous gain, or the allurements of sinful pleasure; grant us the understanding and resolution to turn from them; and let integrity and uprightness preserve us. While our thoughts are amidst the concerns of earth, may we be careful to reserve our affections for what is pure, and holy, and celestial. May we be sober, temperate, and industrious; so that a review of life may afford us comfort, when nothing but our characters shall remain to us.

As sojourners on earth, we humbly entreat of thee, O Father of mercies, those supplies of temporal good, which will most conduce to our future welfare. If it be thy heavenly will, defend us from the many dangers to which we are exposed. Prosper us in all our just undertakings; and may we advance thy glory, by being eminently serviceable to our fellow men. Fit us, O Lord, for what is before us in life; and whatever shall be our condition, may the purposes of thy providence be answered in us.

As our day is, so may our strength be. Ena-

ble us to meet the adversities we must meet, with prepared minds; with patience, fortitude, and resignation. May we take sober views of life and its duties; estimate well the great objects of probation, and see ourselves as thou seest us. Knowing that our stay on earth must be short, may we often think of the world to which we are hastening. O! may a firm trust in thee and a lively faith in Jesus Christ, carry us through every trial, and prepare us for thy presence.

Father of lights! what we ask for ourselves, we ask for our brethren; beseeching thee, the universal Parent, to do for them and for us, as thine unerring wisdom sees best.

*

In the spirit of faith and charity, we present these our requests; humbly relying on that everlasting, unchangeable mercy, which thou didst manifest and declare by Jesus Christ; in whose name we offer to thy sacred majesty, glory and praise forever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

Ever living and ever blessed Lord our God! At the close of another day, in which we have experienced thy care and goodness, we are

assembled together to adore and praise thee, as our heavenly Father; in whom we live, and move, and have our being. Thou art the Source of good, the Author of our mercies. Accept, we beseech thee, our unfeigned thanks for our being, our reason, and all other endowments of soul and body; for our health, friends, food and raiment, and all the various comforts of life: above all, for that rich mercy which gave us a Saviour to redeem us from sin and death, and to lead us to a knowledge of thee and a sense of our duty. We bless thee for thy patience with us notwithstanding our many and great provocations; for all the directions, assistances, and comforts of thy holy Spirit; for thy continual care and watchful providence over us, through the whole course of our lives; and particularly for the mercies and benefits of the past day: and we beseech thee to continue these thy blessings to us, and give us grace to show our thankfulness in a sincere obedience. Reform whatever is amiss in the temper and dispositions of our souls; that no impure thoughts, unlawful designs, or inordinate desires, may rest there. Free our hearts from envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness; that we may never suffer the sun to go down upon our wrath; but may always go to our rest in peace, charity, and good will, with

a conscience void of offence towards thee and towards men. Imprint upon our hearts such a dread of thy judgments, and such a grateful sense of thy goodness to us, as may make us both afraid and ashamed to offend thee.

But, O God, we lament that we have not had that fear which keepeth from evil.

We would come in our unworthiness, acknowledging our manifold violations of duty. But remembering thou hast promised forgiveness to the truely penitent, we devoutly implore, through Jesus Christ, the exercise of that mercy which loves to forgive. May we possess that deep contrition, which shall make us effectually return to thee, from whom we have wandered. May we imbibe the spirit, adopt the principles, and copy the example of our Saviour; keeping in our minds a lively remembrance of that great day, in which each one must give an account to God, of all his thoughts, words, and actions; and be rewarded according to the deeds done in the body.

Father of lights and God of all grace, we pray for the spread of the Gospel through all nations; and may as many as have received this heavenly gift, live as becomes it. Be gracious unto thy church; and grant that each member may walk worthy his holy vocation. Bless all in authority

over us; and so rule their hearts and strengthen their hands, that they may punish wickedness and vice, and maintain pure religion and social order. Send down blessings upon our relations, friends, and neighbours. Reward all who have done us good; pardon all who have done us evil. Be merciful to all in trouble, and be to them more and better than we can ask or think.

*

We again, O Father, give thee thanks, that in mercy another day is added to our lives.

We now, in the solemnities of prayer, dedicate ourselves to thee, in a sober, righteous, and godly life; in which resolution do thou, O God, confirm and strengthen us; that as we grow in age, we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Through the dangers of this night, wilt thou be our shield. Grant to us that refreshing sleep which shall fit us for the duties of the following day. We commit ourselves to thy care, in a firm trust in thy providence, ascribing to thee all might, majesty, and dominion forever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Our Father who art in heaven, the Source of life, the Parent of all intelligent beings, by whose inspiration we have received understanding! We beseech thee to look in mercy from heaven, the habitation of thy holiness, upon us, thy dependent children. Fill us with the spirit of prayer and supplication, that we may serve thee with reverence and godly fear. Grant that we may receive the adoption of sons, and fashion ourselves according to the example of him, who hath called us with a holy calling. May we be conformed to the image of the Son of God, who is in the bosom of the Father.

Inspire us with a due veneration of thy sacred majesty; and in thought, word, and action, may we *hallow thy name*. O that thy name might be hallowed among the heathens; may all the gentiles glorify thee for thy mercy, and rejoice together with thy chosen people.

Almighty King of kings, *may thy kingdom come*. May we demean ourselves as obedient subjects of thy moral government, by a cheerful and universal compliance with thy laws. May thy word have free course and be glorified, till every thought shall be brought into obedience

to thee, and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of the Lord and his Christ, and all people, nations, and languages, serve him, to whom thou hast given dominion and glory.

Heavenly Father, behold we are here thy creatures and subjects. In every occurrence of life, we would say, It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good. *May thy will be done* concerning us and by us. May the submission of thy creatures *on earth* be as sincere and constant *as it is in heaven.*

Knowing that the blessings of this world, as well as of that which is to come, are at thy disposal, we offer up our requests unto thee for such supplies of the good things of this life, and such a disposition to enjoy them, as thou, in thy wisdom, knowest to be best for us. *Give us this day our daily bread.* Bless our substance, and prosper the labour of our hands. Give us neither poverty nor riches to our hurt. Feed us with food convenient for us. Having food and raiment, as thy goodness orders, may we therewith be content.

Above all, we beseech thee to pardon the great and numerous sins and follies of our past lives. *Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.* From thy forbearance shown to us, may we learn to govern every emotion of anger,

and to abstain from every degree and kind of revenge. We would forgive one another, even as thou, through Jesus Christ, hast forgiven us.

Lead us not into temptation. In all our conflicts with the enemies of our purity and salvation, may we have the assistances needful to prevent our falling into sin. We beseech thee to fortify our minds, to carry us safely through every trial, and guide us in the paths of innocence and integrity. May thy grace be sufficient for us, and thy word abide in us, that we may come off conquerors through him who hath loved us.

Deliver us from evil; save us from our sins; and redeem us from all iniquity. O God of our salvation, defend us from all our spiritual enemies. Remove from us the way of lying; incline our hearts to thy testimonies. Cleanse us from secret faults, and keep us back from presumptuous sins.

O thou, who art great and greatly to be praised; good and greatly to be loved; we address these petitions to thee, believing thou art able to do exceeding abundantly for us, even above what we can ask or think; *for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.* Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, our Supporter and our Hope. Thou art ever present to all thy creatures in every part of thy vast dominions. Thou hast been with us this day, and brought us to its close in safety. Thou art the preserver of all the beings, to whom thy power hath given life, and to whom thy goodness hath imparted the capacity and means of happiness. Around the family altar, we desire now to lift up our souls, in prayer.

Great God, we look up to thee with exalted and reverential thoughts of thy being, attributes, and perfections. We would adore thee as the Author of nature, who remainest the same throughout all generations; infinitely kind and supremely blessed. On thee, our souls would devoutly wait; and by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, present our requests to the Father of mercies. Thou, O Lord, rulest over all, and the universe is thy kingdom! But with admiring and grateful thoughts of thy condescension we rejoice, that our dwellings are under thy gracious eye. Thou dost bless our habitations; and hast promised to hear the prayer and accept the praise offered up unto

thee by the devout worshipper, wherever they shall be presented, and however they shall ascend.

We would praise thee, O Father, with our whole hearts; and our abode shall witness the prayer of trust, and the acknowledgments of gratitude. Thy favours have multiplied with the hours of our lives. We review the day that is past, thankful for thy sustaining care and unfailing bounty; thankful for the blessings and enjoyments it hath afforded us; thankful if we have been equal to its trials, and faithful in its duties.

All is from thee, the great Author of good; and we can have nothing but what thou shalt see fit to give us. With admiration and grateful joy we reflect, that, from the gracious disposals of thy providence, and the counsels of thy mercy for mankind, we are, in Christ Jesus, enlightened by the wisdom he taught; made partakers of the righteousness and forgiveness of which he is the minister; sanctified by his truth, and become heirs of eternal redemption. Possess our hearts with a lively sense of thy goodness to us, the weak and erring children of men. Affect our minds with a deep, penitential sense of the defects of our gratitude and obedience. Oh! that our obedience had been as

regular and constant as the communications of thy goodness, and suitable to the riches of thy mercy. In that mercy, O Father, we hope for pardon; that mercy we implore to forgive our omissions and transgressions of duty; and to lead us in the paths of improving righteousness and eternal life; and to that mercy, which, with paternal compassion, adapts its exercises to our frailties and wants, we commit ourselves through the dangers of the night, and through the uncertain scenes of each future day. O! may it inspire our breasts with devout confidence, when we lie down and when we rise up; and may we be filled with peace, hope, and joy, under all the uncertainties and events of every day, in reflecting that thy merciful providence presides over us and our habitation. In the way of righteousness may we ever be solicitous to secure its guidance and protection; and to make the best improvement of its blessings, and the most grateful returns by obeying thy precepts, and doing good to one another.

*

Holy Watchman of thy chosen people! who dost never slumber nor sleep; who art ever near us and able to protect! answer us in these our supplications, and visit each one of us, our

dwelling, and all who are near and dear to us, with thy gracious favour and preserving care. Forgive our sins according to thy mercy in Jesus Christ, who is passed into heaven for us; and in that name, which is above every name, shall be ascribed to thee, all honour and glory forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

INFINITELY great and glorious Lord our God; whose name alone is Jehovah! Thou coverest thyself with light as with a garment, and art the original Source of life, order, and happiness! Though thou art far above our most exalted conceptions, and incapable of receiving any accession to thy felicity by the service of men or angels; yet, blessed be thy name, thou hast revealed thyself to us, as a Being accessible, and hast encouraged us, by prayer to maintain a sacred intercourse with thee, our Maker. And since thou hast given us in Jesus Christ, a boldness of access to the throne of grace, and made prayer a condition of acceptance, and promised if we ask aright, to fit us for the blessings thou wilt bestow; we desire, at this time, with true piety and devotion, to unite in this our duty and privilege.

Holy Father, we come to ask strength from thee, who alone canst impart it; and protection from thee, who alone canst save; and assistance from thee, who alone canst help; and mercy from thee, who alone canst forgive.

We have sinned, Father, against heaven and in thy sight. We fear we have lightly esteemed the rock of our salvation. We have permitted the trifles of the world to interrupt our religious duties; and engross our time and affections. O God! we justly deserve thy frowns. But knowing we cannot endure thine indignation, we fly to that rich mercy tendered in Jesus our Mediator; and as thy perfections are the ground of our hope and render thee the only proper object of our prayers; we devoutly pray thee to exercise toward us that mercy, which is the crowning attribute of thy nature.

Not weighing our unworthiness, pardon our iniquity, and justify us freely by thy grace, through the redemption there is in Christ Jesus. O may we hereafter set the Lord always before us; and live as passengers going through a world of danger, to meet their Judge. O God, for aid and guidance, we would fly to thee; whose name is the refuge of thy people; and may we feel ourselves supported, beyond the mere power of nature, by a higher power than nature knows.

If trouble, and sorrow, and disappointment are to be our portion; and we are to be travellers through the wilderness of human life, O God! wilt thou be with us. From the flinty rock, wilt thou give us water; in the dew of evening wilt thou give us bread, and may thy cloud of mercy overshadow us by day, and thy pillar of fire lead us by night, till thou shalt conduct us safely to our promised heaven. O may we be made wiser and better by all we suffer, as well as by all we enjoy. With Christian devotedness, may we take up our cross and follow our Master; and when our spirits would faint, may we look to Jesus, who went up to his Father's throne, by the steps of suffering. Thou hast placed us here, O God, to learn the great lesson of preparation for life. Suffer us not to waste the hours of probation; but make us faithful to thee, ourselves, and each other, and fit us for what we are capable of enjoying.

In thee, who hast preserved and helped us hitherto, we put our trust for the whole of our future life. Into thy hands we commit ourselves, our friends, and brethren of mankind. To thee, in an especial manner, we commit the cause of Christ, which is the cause of human happiness.

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Graciously accept our thanks, thou Giver of all good, for having preserved us another night, and bestowed on us another day. O grant, that we may meditate on thy law this day with joyful veneration, and keep it in all our actions, with firm obedience. Hear us through him, who is our Intercessor at thy right hand; while we ascribe to thee, the Author of our condition, all glory, dominion, and praise forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Ever blessed and glorious Lord our God! the Father of all the families on earth! We come now to worship thee as thy rational offspring. We would begin and end every thing with thee. Having finished the business and enjoyed the blessings of the day, withdrawn from the converse of the world, we unite, as a family, to acknowledge thy fatherly goodness towards us, exercised with a constancy and kindness, as if we were the only objects of thy paternal care and bounty. What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits? We adore and thank that friendly providence, which has sustained us to this hour; and we devoutly rejoice, that

we are disposed to appear before thee this evening, as a worshipping family. Above all, everlasting thanks be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that we, belonging to the household of faith, are called to the inheritance of the children of God.

For thy rich mercy's sake in Jesus Christ, forgive the sins with which we are chargeable; forgive us wherein we have trespassed against each other in the course of the day that is now closed; and let not our past transgressions provoke thee to visit our dwelling with thy displeasure.

To thee, our Protector in heaven, who crownest our days with favour and mercy, we desire sincerely to renew the surrender of ourselves. May the love and fear of thee dwell in our hearts and rule in our house. As we mutually share thy bounties, may we mutually love each other.

And now, O God, our prayer to thee is, that we may hereafter be followers of thee, as dear children. May our tempers, as the children of the God of love, be more mild, compassionate, and benevolent. May we be as Jesus was, holy, harmless, and undefiled. May our passions, subdued by a reverence of thy authority and

presence, be more composed and better governed. O may our graces and virtues be strengthened and improved; our love to thee our Father increased; our love to Jesus made effectual, and our love to each other abound more and more, in all that is amiable, and pure, and affectionate. O may our lives be filled with the fruits of righteousness, to the honour of our relation to thee our Parent, as thy sons and the heirs of eternal life. With these holy and devout sentiments and wishes, we would compose ourselves to sleep; and during the hours when no eye watches for our safety, when we are insensible of danger, and unable effectually to provide for our defence, O almighty and gracious Preserver, keep each of us from evil; and restore us in the morning, with renewed vigour of body and mind, to the duties and pursuits of a useful and virtuous life.

We commend to thee our friends and relatives, our native land, and the whole family of man; beseeching thee, to do abundantly for their good, above what we can ask or think, and when we shall have answered here the great purposes of thy goodness in our creation, we humbly pray thee to accept us to the rewards of faithful children in thy kingdom above, through thine infinite mercy declared unto us in Jesus Christ,

through whom we would ever ascribe to thee all honour and glory. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father! Thou seest our inmost purposes, and searchest our hearts. Enable us at this time, to withdraw our thoughts from the concerns of the world, and hold direct communion with thee, the Father of our spirits. Thy name is excellent in all the earth, and we would worship thee in the beauty of holiness. We come with our intercessions and prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Advocate and Redeemer; and in his name, we most devoutly pray thee, to remember not our offences. For the glory of thy name, turn from us all those evils we have most justly deserved. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people who are penitent; and according to the multitude of thy mercies, have compassion on the work of thy hands. Deliver us, we entreat thee, from all evil; from the dangerous assaults of temptations; from lusts which war against the soul; from all the deceitful allurements of this world; from thy just displeasure, and from

future condemnation. O deliver us, we beseech thee, from all blindness of mind, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word and commandment; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy and hatred; from malice and cruelty, and all uncharitableness. In the time of our prosperity; in the time of our adversity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, gracious God, deliver us. And now, O Father, our hearts' desire and prayer to thee, is, that it may please thee to have mercy upon all men, and to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred and are deceived. Guide and bless all thy sincere worshippers in the right way, that, embracing and holding fast the doctrine of eternal life, they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. May it please thee, to rule and govern the Christian church, according to the simplicity of the Gospel; and to lead all professing Christians to the right knowledge and practice of their holy religion. Restrain, O God, every kind and degree of persecution, spiritual tyranny and oppression; and may all show themselves disciples of Christ, by loving one another. May unity, peace, and concord, reign through the world, and mankind enjoy the rich blessings of order and good government.

O God most merciful! give us to grow in grace; to hear thy law with meekness; to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the spirit. Preserve us, if it be thy will, from dangers; from hurtful lightnings and tempests; from plague, pestilence, and famine; from war and wasting calamities. Give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth, so that in due time we may enjoy them.

Bless our rulers, and enable them to execute justice and maintain peace. Illuminate all ministers of the Gospel with clear knowledge and understanding of the truth as it is in Jesus; and may all seminaries of learning extend useful arts and virtuous principles. O God, with Christian sympathy we pray thee to succour, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, or tribulation. Defend all who travel by land or by water. Provide for the fatherless and the widow. Support the aged, and show pity upon all prisoners and captives. Strengthen such as do stand; raise up those who fall, and comfort the feeble-minded.

Heavenly Parent, we ask a blessing on our friends; reward our benefactors; forgive our enemies; and will it please thee, to have mercy upon all men.

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We would not forget, O God, that tender care which has watched over us another night. While we are grateful that we have thee for our support, we would cheerfully resign all to thy guidance and disposal this day. Be with us on the right hand and on the left; and to thee, most Holy, shall be praise forever, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

Eternal God, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of the Universe, whom all the hosts of heaven venerate and adore! We desire to bow before thee this evening, with composed minds, devout affections, and christian piety. In lengthening out our days, it is thy gracious design, to spare us for repentance and future improvement. In thine hand, O Lord, our breath is; and because thou hast not withdrawn thy parental support, we are still upheld in life. If we have this day overcome temptation to evil, if we have in any respect obeyed thy holy will, and done good in the world; unto thee be the praise. But we take shame to ourselves, that we have hitherto profited so little by thy continuance of us in life. How many hours, as

they have passed, have accused us of negligence! O God, we are weak and erring; but as thou rememberest we are dust, we would penitently supplicate that mercy, which thou hast promised through thy beloved Son. In him, we beseech thee, be gracious toward our past failings, and awaken us to future diligence, so that we may make our calling and election sure. May our faith in the Saviour be something more than a cold assent of the understanding. O may it penetrate our inmost souls, and warm and invigorate our best affections. May it elevate us above the world, and make us live for the future. May it make the aged sedate and exemplary; the middle-aged industrious and pure; may it protect the young in their innocence; and make all of every age pious and humble.

Suffer, O God, no inordinate desires ever to prevail upon us, to break through the sacred boundaries of wisdom, virtue, and true religion. May we be like Jesus, our great Exemplar.

With regard to our temporal condition and the continuance of life itself, we refer these, O Father, entirely to thy wise disposal. We earnestly pray, that thou wilt give us wisdom to conduct ourselves well and wisely, under whatever events thou shalt appoint to us. May all conduce to our security and improvement in the holy and divine

life. Conduct us, in whatever way thou pleasest, to the perfection and happiness of our natures. By christian dispositions, by an upright conduct, and by a steady perseverance in duty to the end, may we be prepared to meet death with serenity and good hope, to stand before thy bar, and to become blessed in the inheritance of eternal life.

Preserve, O God, among Christians, the sacred bond of unity. Among less important differences, may all discern the supreme value of piety, charity, and holiness; and may we show our love to Christ, by practising his commands.

O thou common Parent of all! continue thy care over the nations that unhappily know not thee. Raise up chosen instruments to carry amongst them the right knowledge of thee, the only true God, and of Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent as the messenger of thy truth to men.

God of grace and consolation! be thou the kind deliverer of all under affliction, whether of mind, body, or estate. Pity those who labour under the pressure of poverty. Dispose to kindness those who are able to afford them relief. Succour the tempted. Defend the oppressed. Support the persecuted for righteousness' sake. Comfort the sorrowful. Speak peace to the troubled mind. Spare desirable and useful lives. Prepare such as are near

death for an exchange of worlds. Be thou the tender Guardian of the destitute; the Father of the fatherless; and the widow's God. Reward thou our benefactors; and if we have enemies, Father, forgive them.

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We thank thee, O God, for thy goodness and care to us, through the day that is now closing. Praised and adored be thy great name for all we enjoy or yet hope for.

May we lie down this night in peace with God, with our own consciences, and with all mankind. May our sleep be refreshing and peaceful; and through thine all powerful providence, may the morning light find us in health for the duties of the day. Hear us, Holy Father, as thy children, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty! Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory. The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee. The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee. The noble army of Martyrs praise thee. The holy church throughout

all the world doth acknowledge thee, the Father of infinite majesty. We thy servants, though a small part of thy great family, would come in humble trust and with pure hearts, to join our praises and prayers with those of the spirits in thy presence, ascribing glory and honour, dominion and power, to him who sitteth upon the throne, forever and ever. We would acknowledge thee, the great and good Source of existence. Wherever we turn, we behold the unambiguous footsteps of God. We will extol thee, O Lord our King; we will bless thy name forever and ever. Thou didst breathe into us the breath of life, and thine inspiration hath given us understanding. In thee we live, and move, and have our being. O God, our heavenly Father, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us in the same by thy mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by thy governance, may be righteous in thy sight. May we live as seeing thee who art invisible; and wilt thou, who art the author of peace, and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, and whose service is perfect freedom; defend us, thy humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that

we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries. May we have the mind and fortitude which were in Jesus Christ.

Hear our intercessions, O Lord, for the land in which we live; and wilt thou, who art the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth, behold and bless with thine abundant favour all those, who rule over us in our national and state governments. Replenish them with the grace of thy holy spirit, so that they may always incline to thy will and walk in thy way; endue them plenteously with heavenly gifts, so as to enable them most effectually to advance learning, and peace, and holiness.

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men, that thou wouldst be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy church universal, that it may be so guided and governed by thee, that all who profess and call themselves Christians, may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind,

body, or estate, that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions.

But while we acknowledge thee, O Father, as the supreme Disposer of our condition, we would not overlook the mercies which surround us. We, thine unworthy servants, would give thee most humble and hearty thanks for thy goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the comforts of this life; but, above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world through our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us such a due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee, in holiness and righteousness all our remaining days.

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Merciful God, wilt thou go with us through this day. Aid us in all our duties, shield us from every harm, and bring us at last to thy-

self, which we ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O Thou, on whom all eyes wait, all creatures depend! Our God and Father! We come now in the solemnities of prayer, to spread out our wants before thee, who alone canst relieve them; and to dedicate to thee the lives thou art sparing. Aware of the sacred presence in which we stand, may our prayers be the assent of our souls to thee.

O thou, whose ear is this moment open to our cry! we bow before thee with profound veneration and holy fear, remembering the distance there is between thee and us. Infinite, eternal God! we would come to submit our ways to thy guidance, our interests to thy disposal. On thee we depend for our continuance in life, both in this world and the next. To thee we must look for safety amidst unforeseen exposures; for the means of subsistence; for our daily bread; for our necessary raiment; for the vigour of health; for fruitful seasons; and for all the supports and comforts of life.

On thee must we depend for our social blessings; for our religious privileges; for the benefit of divine instruction; and for all our opportunities of improving in virtue and piety. To thee alone would we render thanks, that a Saviour was sent to bless us, by throwing light upon the path of duty; by setting before us a spotless example; by imparting the renewing influences of Christianity; and by yielding himself up to death, that he might become the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

O God! who can declare thy mighty acts? who can show forth all thy praise? If we speak of thy mercies, they are more than can be numbered. We will give thee thanks as long as we live; every day will we bless thee, and we will praise thy name forever.

But whilst we acknowledge thy kindness with gratitude, it becometh us to confess with heartfelt penitence, that we have sinned against thee. We have disregarded thine all-searching eye, and have offended against thy goodness. Merciful Father, we sincerely lament our past unthankfulness and disobedience; and earnestly intreat that thou wouldst not be strict to mark iniquity against us. According to thy rich grace in Jesus Christ, grant us mercy and pardon; so

that we may return to thee, humble and penitent: and do thou, O God, never suffer us again to wander.

We would now commit ourselves into thine hands, and may all our devotions produce in us the fruits of good living, to the honour of thy name; so that continually advancing in our likeness to thee, the great object of our worship, we may, at length, be trained up to dwell with thee, under a more perfect discipline, and in higher services, in thy heavenly kingdom.

O enable us in whatever state we are, therewith to be content. In prosperity make us humble and thankful; and willing to show kindness to our brethren. In adversity and affliction, may we not despise thy chastening, nor faint when we are rebuked of thee. O may we cast our cares upon thee, who carest for us, knowing that whatever thou doest, thou doest for our future welfare.

But, O God of goodness! while we supplicate for ourselves, we would not forget to ask thy choicest favour upon our friends. May those who are united to us by the ties of nature or affection, be united to thee in the ties of piety and holiness. Preserve thou their lives, and make them instrumental of good in their day and generation.

Bless thou the hoary head; and may the aged, as they see the time at hand when they must meet thee and give an account of their stewardship, have the testimony of conscience, that in simplicity and in godly sincerity, not by fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, they have had their conversation in the world. May those in the vigour of life remember that their strength is derived, and therefore dedicate to thee what thou hast given them. And may the young remember, that now is the time to lay the foundation for useful and happy lives; and wilt thou, O Father, guide their inexperienced feet.

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Hear us, in heaven, thy holy habitation, and when thou hearest, return an answer of peace; which we ask, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Infinite and eternal God! We adore thee as possessed of every attribute that can claim the affection and reverence of rational beings. Thy power acts by thy wisdom. Thy goodness has fixed a healing and restoring efficacy to moral

punishment. Thy justice is not severity. Thy mercy is always in exercise, and endureth forever. Thy benevolence, wishing to exert itself, gave existence to the universe; and thou hast no object before the happiness of thy creatures. All thou doest now, or ever wilt do, will be according to that infinite mercy which loves to forgive, and that unceasing goodness which loves to bless. Glory be to thy name for the assurance, that thou art our Father; and that our Father is Love.

Thanks be to thy name, for the various interviews the world has had with thee its Maker. We rejoice in thy rich promises to Abraham, that in him, all the families of the earth should be blessed. We thank thee for the long succession of prophets, through whom thou didst pour increasing light upon a benighted world. But glory be to God in the highest, that in the fulness of time thou didst send forth thy Son, who, in the counsels of thy wisdom, was he, who was to come, the Messiah, the last Prophet, through whom thou wast to have direct intercourse with man. Never, O Father, can we too much praise, and bless, and magnify thy holy name, for the gift of a Saviour, a Redeemer, an Intercessor, and an Advocate. Our souls would kindle into the highest praise, when we

read that his advent was announced by angels, and that his character at his baptism was attested by thee, declaring, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased! Glory be to thy name, that thou didst give thy spirit to him without measure; and didst fill him with thy wisdom; and didst clothe him with thy power; and didst so communicate to him thy will, that he appeared on earth, the perfect, visible representative of thee, who art invisible. Blessed be God! that by astonishing and benevolent miracles, he confirmed his title to the messiahship; that he disclosed thy whole character, in all its benignity; that he unfolded the moral nature of man and marked out the duties which spring from it; that he announced the terms of pardon and acceptance with thee; and established, by his resurrection, the doctrine of eternal life.

O God, we devoutly thank thee, for the high and sacred character he sustained; and may we ever view him in the divinity of his mission, the divinity of his office, the divinity of his doctrines. O may we see the connexion that his laws, his example, his sufferings and death, have with our salvation. Grant that the animating motives and the awful sanctions of Christianity, may take such deep hold of our minds, that we

shall break off our sins by repentance, and our iniquities by turning unto thee; and shall hereafter live the lives we live in the flesh, by faith in the Son of God. O may we grow in grace; press on toward perfection; abound in the work of the Lord; have our conversation in heaven, and our hearts there; live piously and godly in the world, looking for that blessed hope, the appearance of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who shall recompense to every man according to his deeds and character, whether they be good or evil.

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In his name, who died that we might live, we bring these requests to thy throne of grace, and in his own prayer would further call upon thee.

Our father who art in heaven! Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those, who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O THOU, who remainest the same through the succession of days and weeks, of months and years! Through all the revolutions of time, thou, O God, art the same unwearied goodness. All things proceed from thee, and thy presence is the life of the world. In thine hand is our breath, and it is of thy mercy that we are not consumed.

Parent of good! at the close of another day and another week, we would come to return our humble thanks for the mercies which have crowned this period; and to implore their continuance. Whilst many have been cut off, and have passed into eternity, we are yet left, the spared monuments of thy sparing favour. Whilst many have fallen on our right hand and on our left, we have escaped, to witness that thou art good to the evil and unthankful.

Unfailing Source of life and mercy! Thou in wisdom didst place us on this stage of action. Thou didst uphold us in the helpless days of infancy; and thou didst preserve us amidst our exposures. Thine unseen hand led us safely through childhood, and the slippery paths of youth. We tasted of thy bounty before we were

capable of acknowledging the source from whence it came.

With each returning day, and week, and year, thy mercies have been multiplied upon us; and when we review the many instances of thy paternal goodness, we are constrained to say, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. Yea, through riches of divine love and forbearance, thou art continuing us in a state of trial, giving us space for repentance, and favouring us with the means of grace and reformation.

Continue unto us, O Father, thy heavenly blessings, and dispose us to use them as we ought. When we look back upon our past lives, we see them thick-set with the tokens of thy love. The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercies. We would acknowledge thee in those common bounties, which we are so apt to overlook.

To thy providence we owe the establishment of civil society; the institution of wise and salutary laws; the progress of useful knowledge; the advantages of commercial intercourse; and all the improvements and blessings of social life. From thee, we derive all our opportunities of becoming acquainted with ourselves, and with thee, our Maker; and of acquiring the habits, and enjoying the pleasures of virtue and piety.

To thee we are indebted for the instructions and examples of the wise and good; for the benefits of a virtuous education; for the opportunity of social worship, and for every advantage which we derive from the sacred institutions of religion; for the excellent rules of virtue which Christianity prescribes, and for the powerful motives it suggests, to persuade us to a steadfast perseverance in welldoing. It is through thine unchangeable and everlasting mercy, that we are made capable of extending our views and desires beyond this present life, and that we are inspired with the joyful and animating hope of immortality.

All happiness proceeds from thee: unto thee all praise and gratitude are due!

Almighty God! in view of all thy goodness, we now, with devout hearts, ask thine assistance to enable us hereafter to live, as becomes those, who are so highly blessed. Relying on God, we would in the presence of each other, and before thee, form the most serious and deliberate purpose, to correct whatever hath been wrong in our past temper and conduct; and to live in future as the true and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Trusting that thou, who art our Guardian and Friend, wilt give us all needful aid, we commit ourselves into thine

hands. May we be wholly and forever thine; and do thou, O God, accept us.

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Lord of life; keep us in safety, through the night that is coming. May the refreshment of sleep prepare us to enter on the day sacred to devotion; and when our days and weeks on earth shall be closing, and the night of death shall come, may we then fall asleep in Jesus, looking for that morning of the resurrection, when we may be admitted to nobler services in thy heavenly temple. Amen.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Eternal and infinite Jehovah, Framer of our bodies and Father of our spirits, we adore thee as our Father and our God, and the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,—as that most high and holy Being, whom angels praise, whom dominions adore, before whom all powers fall down and tremble, and whose excellent glory cherubim and seraphim proclaim forever. On this morning of the day sacred to thee, we would come before thee, in the name of that Saviour, whose glorious rising this day commemorates.

By thy good providence we are once more permitted to assemble in the tranquillity and happiness of the family circle. Thou hast watched over us during the past night, hast spared our lives and made us the monuments of thy preserving goodness. And now, our Father, may we come to thee in the spirit of faith and devotion. Save us from the guilt of hollow professions and heartless prayers,—and let us not draw near unto thee with our lips, while our hearts are far from thee.

We praise thee, God of grace, for all those religious blessings, which we are now especially called upon most gratefully to remember, and for all the holy recollections which this day brings to our minds. Glory be to thee, Father of mercies, for that Saviour, who triumphed over the grave and made death his captive. We bless thee, that thou, who, in times past, didst speak unto the fathers by the prophets, hast, in these latter days, spoken unto us by thy Son Jesus Christ; that thou hast sent him to go before us in the way of duty and of suffering, to be our guide and deliverer to save us from our sins, and to show us the way to thy favour, which is life, and thy lovingkindness, which is better than life. How should we adore thy goodness, O God, that when spiritual darkness covered

the earth, and mankind had wandered far from thee, thou didst stretch forth the arm of thy mercy, mighty to save, and powerful to bless,—and that the Messenger of thy truth and love appeared, the friend of sinners, and the guide to immortality. We bless thee, that though earth be a land of darkness, and over it be spread the shadow of death, yet there is an inheritance of glory reserved for thy children in a brighter world,—that though we are born to die, yet Christ hath taught us, that we die but to live for ever,—and through the grave hath opened to us the pathway to the mansions of bliss and glory. And we pray, O Father, that while we are grateful for the high and rich blessings of the gospel, our hearts may be subdued to its dominion and sanctified by its influences; that we may live in the purity of christian faith, and die in the joy of christian hope.

Father in heaven, we beseech thee to be with us, and bless us this day, and prepare our hearts for thy service. O send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead us, let them bring us to thy holy place. In thine earthly temple, may we this day meet around thine altar, and there put away all our earth-born passions, our distracting cares, our vain and frivolous thoughts,

and offer to thee that homage of the soul, which thou wilt not despise. May we enter thy gates with thanksgiving, and thy courts with praise, there to pour out our hearts to thee in the voice of prayer, and to seek some good instruction, some purifying, sanctifying influences from thy holy word. O save us from a careless, formal, hypocritical worship; and when we receive good impressions, let them not be as the morning cloud and the early dew. We lament before thee, that we have so often forgotten thy goodness and violated thy laws, and that our souls have been so much estranged from thee, and from pure and holy things. We pray that this day, and during the whole of our lives, we may love thee more and serve the better than ever yet we have done. May we leave behind, our follies and our sins, and press on toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. May the virtues and graces of the gospel be the ornaments of our lives and characters. May we seek to imitate the example of our Saviour, and to transcribe into our own souls something of his meekness and humility, his fervent piety and patient resignation, his enlarged benevolence, his generous and holy zeal in doing good. Knowing that a day is coming, in which thou

wilt render unto every one according to his works, may we be as those who live for eternity.

We pray for thy servant, who ministers in sacred things to the society, of which we are members. Bless his labours in the cause of Christ, and make him the instrument of turning many to righteousness. Let thy blessing rest on all the ministers of the gospel; may they be animated, faithful, zealous, and successful in the office of imparting and enforcing the truths, the warnings, and the hopes of our holy religion. We pray that thy presence and blessing may be with all the assemblies of thy worshipping people this day,—and may the efficacy of thy word be displayed in turning men from the error of their ways unto thee, the living and true God. Grant, O God, that the kingdom of thy Son may be more widely diffused and more firmly established, and that all the nations of the earth may come to the knowledge and worship of thee, through Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. In his name we offer our prayer, and ascribe unto thee all power and glory forever. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

FATHER of lights! Eternal God! At the close of this thy holy day, we would assemble around the family altar, to remember thy rich mercies to us. We would feel sympathy with the holy calmness of this hour; and approach thee as becomes those, who have learned of Christ; who have drunk deep of the spirit of Jesus; whose communion hath been with God, and who have been called to glory and immortality. With ready steps and with cheerful minds, have we joined our christian brethren, who keep this day holy to the Lord; and may the affections, which have been called out by the services of this day, now accompany our devotions, and go with us through the week.

Father of mercies! when we hear of thy rich provisions for our spiritual welfare, our souls would kindle into the highest praise.

Glory be to thee, that when all flesh had corrupted its way, and the world was dead in trespasses and sins, without the knowledge of thee, thine eye beheld man in pity, and thine arm was outstretched for his deliverance. Glory be to thee, that in the fulness of time, thou didst send thy well-beloved Son, not that he should

be the messenger of wo, not that he should condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Glory be to thee, that of God he is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. Glory be to thee, for his precious discoveries and doctrines, for his astonishing works, and for his spotless example. Glory be to thee, that he was made perfect through sufferings; that he humbled himself and became obedient to the death of the cross; that he is set forth to be a mercy-seat through faith in him, and that he saves us from future misery, by affording us the means of escape. Glory be to thee, that by his death he has destroyed the terrors of the grave; that he is exalted above principalities and powers; that a name is given him which is above every name; that he is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto thee through him, and that he has entered into heaven as our Captain and Forerunner.

O God! never can we sufficiently thank thee for that bread of life which came down from heaven.—Never can we be sufficiently grateful to thee, for preparing such a table for us in the wilderness of this world. As we have received the Lord Jesus for our Saviour, O help us to walk in him; to be transformed into his image,

and to rely firmly upon his promises. May we make his cause our personal concern, and labour to promote it with all our powers. Being members of the same spiritual body, may we be careful to exercise friendship and kindness towards all men; and help each other, to the best of our ability, in the way of eternal life.

Glory be to thee, that means and opportunities are afforded us for strengthening our affection to thy Son, and for imbibing his holy temper and disposition. We thank thee for what our eyes have seen and our ears have heard this day. This day reminds us that Jesus Christ burst the gates of the grave, and led captivity captive. He now lives with thee in heaven. O grant that we may obtain all the benefits which flow from his death, his resurrection, and his glory. We presume not to come to thine altar trusting in our own righteousness, but in thine infinite compassion and unmerited kindness in Jesus Christ. Pardon our sins, according to the gracious covenant thou hast made with thy people through him. We desire to renounce every passion and pursuit, inconsistent with thy service, and with the gratitude we owe to our great Deliverer. And now we implore thy gracious assistance, O God, that we may be crucified unto the world,

and that we may hereafter live by the faith of thy Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. In all the circumstances of this mortal life, may we tread in his footsteps with increasing fidelity and delight. Though we see him not, may we rejoice in him with joy unspeakable and full of glory; and at last, receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; and his mercy endureth forever.

God of the Sabbath! we thank thee for sanctuary privileges. May thy word be preached in its purity, and bring forth fruits of righteousness. Bless, with thy choice favour, the ministers of thy gospel. May no root of bitterness springing up trouble us; and enable us, whether we assemble in thy sanctuary or unite in our families, to meet together with one accord, to praise thee with gladness and singleness of heart, and to continue steadfast in brotherly fellowship.

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Heavenly Father! under thy care we are always safe. To thee, would we now resign ourselves. Grant to each of us, what our trials need. Be with us in danger; and may we yet be spared to be useful in the world. We offer our prayers through the Son of thy love, ascribing to thee praises everlasting. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God! Maker of all worlds! Judge of men! Thy name is excellent in all the earth; and thy glory is set above the stars. Thou inhabitest eternity, and dwellest in light, which no man can approach.

We thy dependent and sinful creatures would bow before thee, acknowledging how unworthy we are to appear in thy presence, or to lift up so much as an eye to those holy heavens, where thou dwellest. O Lord! though we are thus unworthy to presume on thy favour, yet, so great and condescending is thy goodness, as to encourage our addresses to thee, by many gracious promises of thy love and acceptance. With humble confidence then would we approach thy throne of grace, beseeching thee, in the name of Jesus thy beloved Son, to be merciful to us, and forgive us, according to thine abundant goodness.

We acknowledge, O Lord, that we have acted foolishly and wickedly, by doing those things which thou hast forbidden, and by neglecting to do those things, which thou hast commanded: O let that divine mercy, which has spared us so long, lead us to repentance, that

we may forsake our evil ways, and turn unto thee, the Lord our God.

Give us grace, we beseech thee, seriously to consider the great work we have to do, and the uncertainty of the time thou hast given us, in which to perform it; so that we may not foolishly consume our days in vanity and indolence; in the gratification of corrupt desires and empty wishes. Grant us aid to lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us; and may we run, with patience and perseverance, the race laid out for us, looking unto Jesus.

Gracious God! Thou hast mercy in all thy ways, and desirest not the death of sinners, but rather that they should turn from their ways and live; look in pity upon us; succour and preserve us; enable us to conquer every evil habit and surmount every temptation. Look with thy favour upon our remaining part of life; grant, if it please thee, that the days, few or many, which thou shalt yet allow us, may pass in reasonable trust, in holy fear, and ardent love. Strengthen our good purposes till they shall produce lives pleasing to thee. Enable us so to shun sloth and negligence, that every day may discharge part of the duties thou hast allotted us: and wilt thou, O Lord, further with thy help that labour, which, without thy

help, must be ineffectual. Enlighten us with thy knowledge; animate us with heavenly hope; comfort us in thy love, and aid us in all our good resolutions; so that we, who have been created by thy power, and sustained by thy providence, may live to answer the high purposes of our being. Let us not be spared to add wickedness to wickedness; but to experience thy favour, which is life, and thy loving-kindness, which is better than life.

We are now to begin another term of duty; wilt thou, O God, be with us. May our increase of days produce increase of grace; and as thy bounties are multiplying upon us, may we return thee the offering of holy lives.

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Father of mercies! thou hast defended us through another night, and bestowed on us another morning. We desire to dedicate to thee what thou art giving us. Keep us this day in thy providence. Give us wisdom, that we may know thee; sanctify our affections, that we may love thee; and put thy fear into our hearts, that we may dread to offend thee.

Especially, we beseech thee, keep us from the great evil of sin; that in the conclusion of the day we may be able to review our conduct with increasing satisfaction, and our hope in thy mercy may be more established.

These our petitions we would offer through the Son of thy love; our Intercessor at thy right hand, while we ascribe to thee praises everlasting. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

Almighty and most merciful God! who art infinitely exalted above every other being! look down in mercy upon thy needy and dependent children, who, at the close of the day, have collected around the family altar, with the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving. The faculties, with which we worship thee, are thy gift; and of thee are all things. We approach thee, with the persuasion, that no tribute from mortals can add to thy happiness, or to thy glory. But we rejoice, that, though thou art too great to need our offerings, thou art too good to despise or disregard them. We rejoice, that, whilst thou art superintending the concerns of the universe, thou lendest an attentive ear to the voice of our supplications. We bless thee, for assuring us that thou art our Father.

Thy paternal care and goodness are conspicuous in our creation, our safety and our

blessings. We would remember with gratitude, that thy favours have not been limited to this world; but that thou art training us up, by thy grace and care, for everlasting life. We thank thee for the instructions and examples of the wise and good, and for every opportunity of cultivating knowledge and virtue. Yet most of all, we praise and magnify thee, for the rich display of thy love in the manifestation of thy Son, Jesus Christ. With unfeigned gratitude we acknowledge, that by him thou hast given us thy heavenly truth to enlighten our minds and sanctify our hearts; and that in his life thou hast set before us a model of the most exalted goodness to encourage and animate our endeavours to serve thee. We bless thee for the promises of mercy and forgiveness, and for the hopes of immortality, which are confirmed to us in his gospel. We rejoice, that after he had suffered death upon the cross for the reconciliation of us to thee, he was raised by thy mighty power from the grave, becoming the Author of eternal salvation to all who obey him. But while we bless thee, O Father, for thy goodness, we would, with shame and confusion of face, think of our ingratitude. We lament that we have not duly hearkened to thy word; nor been sensible of thy great clemency

and love. We have neglected the government of our thoughts, and the direction of our lives. We have permitted temptation to renew its strength upon us; and have exposed ourselves to thy righteous displeasure.

Parent of mercies! will it please thee to hear us through Jesus, thy well beloved Son; and through him blot out our sins and give us hope. Hereafter enable us, we entreat thee, to serve thee with filial joy and holy fear. May we now determine to devote to thee the remainder of the lives thou art sparing. O God! accept, defend, and sanctify us. What we know not, teach thou us. Whatever is wrong in us, dispose and enable us to reform. Whatever in us is good, assist us to carry forward to perfection. Grant that we may go forth into the world with the spirit of true religion in our souls; and spend all our days in thy fear and love. Forgive our imperfections; pardon our ignorance. In thy great mercy, grant us such things as shall be good for us, though we may neglect to pray for them; and deny us such things as would be hurtful to us, though we should earnestly desire them. Help us to walk as in thy sacred presence, and to live as those who look forward to a day of inquiry.

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God of the nations! bless the land in which we live. Give success, we pray thee, to the lawful and virtuous labour of its inhabitants; provide the necessary supplies for all their wants; and may public happiness be established on the lasting basis of public virtue. May war forever cease through the earth, and thy kingdom come and thy will be done.

In the spirit of charity we would commend all our brethren to thee; and may thy salvation visit them. We resign ourselves to thy watchful providence for this night. When we are unprotected, wilt thou protect us; and to thee who hast created us, to thee who hast redeemed us, to thee who art sanctifying the hearts of thy faithful servants, be honour and glory everlasting. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O Lord, our heavenly Father! the great Source of life, the benevolent Power, in whom are all our springs of comfort and happiness!

Thou art good and doest good continually; thy tender mercies are over all thy works. To whom should we look up with sentiments of

gratitude at the beginning of every day, but to thee, whose care has protected us through the hours of darkness; whose goodness hath refreshed us with sleep? To whom, in our ignorance of what a day may bring forth, should we direct our prayers, with sentiments of trust in a paternal providence, and with mutual solicitude for each other's virtue and happiness, but to thee, our eternal Refuge, whose mercies toward us are great and constant? Hear, most gracious God, these our united prayers and thanksgivings, which the goodness we have tasted, and thy grace in Jesus Christ, encourage us to pour out before thee. It is our first, and may it ever be our earnest desire, to enter on the employments, and meet the events of every day, with a deep sense of the importance of religion. Dispose us, Father of our spirits, amidst all the cares and business of this life, to regard the salvation of our souls as the one thing needful. Make us a family of sincere Christians; render our habitation a holy sanctuary, and a seminary of christian knowledge. May every heart be an altar to thee. O may the religion of Christ, possessing our minds and pervading our hearts, be a bond of union, the spring of every virtue, the animating motive to every duty, a support under every trial, and

the pledge of thy continued favour and everlasting love. May our abode be the dwelling of the God of peace.

O Lord most holy! what we ask for ourselves, we desire for others. Increase the number of those, who serve thee with holy joy, and with a christian life.

Multiply the triumphs of truth over error; of the filial spirit of love, over gloomy fears. In all the habitations of men, from the rising unto the going down of the sun, may the incense of acceptable praise, and the pure offering of virtuous lives be presented unto thee. Endue those who are appointed to rule over their fellow men, with superior wisdom and benevolence. Inspire all instructers of youth, and all teachers of religion, with an ardent concern to promote the greatest welfare of those with whom they are connected. Incline the young, O God, to cultivate a sober mind; to remember thee their Creator, Redeemer, and Judge; and to acquire those habits, which shall secure their present usefulness and future peace. Lead those in the middle of life, to labour, while it is day, in thy service and for the benefit of their fellow men, before the night cometh. Support thine aged servants under all their infirmities, and help them by their example to convince the rising

generation, that religion has power to shed comfort upon the decline of life, and to smooth the passage to the tomb.

In the arms of faith and prayer we would commend to thee the sick and the afflicted, and wilt thou be very near and gracious to them in weakness and trouble. May thy blessing be upon all our families. O grant that all parents may be duly impressed with the high and solemn trust committed to their charge; and see to it, that they set before their children examples, which they can follow with safety; and, when they die, leave behind them characters, which may be remembered with love and veneration. And may children be mindful of how much they owe to their parents; and be induced to do all in their power to promote their happiness. O God, grant that all, whether as parents or children, ~~as masters or servants,~~ as members of families, or as citizens of the state, may discharge their obligations with diligence, zeal, and fidelity. In every situation may it be our chief care to do justly, to love mercy, and walk humbly before thee, our God. O may we have the temper of Jesus, and be his constant followers.

In his name, we offer our prayer; and in him, the Resurrection and the Life, we look

forward to a better and happier world, to which wilt thou at last receive us; and to thee shall be rendered ceaseless praises. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O THOU, who art over all! King of kings, Lord of lords! Creator and Preserver of all beings! Thou didst speak, and the world was made; thy providence supports the works of thy hands, and the happiness of thy creatures is the end of all.

We rejoice in the assurance, that thou wilt hear us when we pray; and that thou takest pleasure in those who come unto thee through faith in Jesus Christ. As his disciples, Holy Father, we now come before thee, and through him implore thee to hear us in heaven thy holy habitation, and when thou hearest, forgive.

With hearts truly moved with a sense of thy great goodness; with views such as they should have, who experience thy constant bounty and sustaining care, would we bow before thee in our devotions. Lift upon us, O Lord, the light of thy countenance, and give us peace. O let not our iniquities stand between thee and us;

but by the assistance of thy grace, make us such as thou wouldst have us to be. What in us is dark, wilt thou illumine; what is weak, wilt thou strengthen; what is erroneous, wilt thou correct; and what is low, wilt thou raise and support. Gracious God! our hope is in thee. To thee would we now surrender every thing. To thee we would give up ourselves, our relations, our friends, our all,—all that we possess, and all that we expect. Dispose of us as shall seem to thee fit. O Lord! may we be wholly and forever thine. O claim us as thy right; keep us as thy charge; love us as thy children; defend us when we are in danger; heal us when we are wounded; revive us when we are fainting; and raise us when we fall.

We thank thee, heavenly Father, for sparing us so long, and giving us so much. We would see the exhibitions of thy kindness to us, in our creation and safety; in our being born in a land where the glad news of salvation by a Redeemer are preached. We would see thee, in our condition; in the structure and formation of our bodies; in the nobler faculties of our minds; in the exercise of reason; in the intimations of conscience; in the affections we cherish; in the sympathies we feel; and in the means of grace and the hopes of glory.

O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

To thee, O Heavenly Parent, we owe it that we were not deserted in helpless infancy; to thee we owe our exemption from what our ingratitude deserves. Thou hast been kind to us, though we have been unthankful. To thee we owe our strength, our health, and our family blessings. To thy mercy we owe it, that we are not in great affliction, or languishing on the bed of sickness, or groaning under the sharpest pains, or pining in want. O may we ever see thee, with sincere gratitude, in thy bounty that cheers, in thy wisdom that directs, in thy truth that enlightens, in thy power that sustains, and in thy mercy that forgives us. O God, may we see thee as thou art, and where thou art. May we ever remember that we pass our lives in thy constant presence, and that death resigns us to thy gracious disposal. Convince us, O God, that it is more solemn to live than to die; since our condition in an eternal world is suspended on the characters we form here. O may our lamps be trimmed and burning, and we be like those, who are waiting for the coming of their Lord.

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Our Preserver and Benefactor! while we thank thee for thy good providence over us through this day, we would give ourselves to thy care through this night. Make not our beds our graves; but give us quiet and refreshing sleep, and enable us to see the light of another day, prepared for its duties; and to thee shall be the glory and praise forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Glory and honour be unto thee, the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God! who fillest the heavens and the earth with thy presence and thy love! Glory and honour be unto thee, the Father and Friend of man! who hast formed us after thine own image, made us intelligent, free, and immortal, and raised us to the dignity of thy children and thy worshippers. Thou hast bestowed on us another day; and art inducing us by thy multiplying favours, to prepare for higher satisfactions than this world can offer.

Adoration and praise be unto thee, the Father of compassion and God of grace! that thou hast pitied thy sinful and erring creatures, and given

us a Redeemer, who is made able to save to the uttermost. By the doctrines, the death, and the resurrection of thy Son, thou hast revealed to us thy character and will; conferred on us the strongest assurance and pledge of thy mercy; enriched us with comfort under all our trials and distresses; encouraged and enabled us to prove faithful to duty; delivered us from the fear of death and hell; and set before us the path of life, which leads to endless pleasures at thy right hand.

O God! how shall we express thy goodness; how shall we estimate thy grace? We are filled with amazement, when we recollect, that though thou art infinitely exalted, thou deignest to exercise such condescension and clemency towards us. To thee, our homage, our affection, our all, are due.

Merciful Parent of the human family! enable us to live under an habitual sense of the relation we sustain towards thee. O may the impression of thy greatness inspire us with reverence, and the remembrance of thy mercy lead us to consecrate our bodies and our souls as a living sacrifice unto thee. May a cheerful and constant obedience ever prove our gratitude, and a patient submission, under our afflictions, ever evince our trust. May we more and more

rejoice in Jesus Christ as the Captain of our salvation; open our hearts to all his discoveries and commandments; make them the only rule of our faith and practice; aim continually at an increasing resemblance of his divine virtues; and rely, with unshaken confidence, upon the precious promises that he has sealed with his blood. By the influence of his holy gospel, may we pass, with usefulness and comfort, through all the vicissitudes of this transitory state, and become qualified for an entrance into that world, where all his followers shall be happy with him forever.

God of the whole earth! may the religion of thy Son rule and sanctify the world. May wars and fightings cease from among men, and the arts of peace be multiplied. Bless, we devoutly pray thee, our land. May our rulers rule in thy fear, and for the general welfare. May our people lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. Vouchsafe to preserve to us our civil and religious rights; to protect us from the horrors of war; to bless us with healthy and fruitful seasons, and to prosper our agriculture, commerce, and manufacutres.

Our Father who art in heaven! Thou hast carried us so far through our journey of life;

we now ask thy presence and protection, during this day. Make us industrious, and useful, and happy.

Be our God in life, our hope in death, and our everlasting portion.

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We offer this our morning service, in the name and as disciples of thy Son, through whom to thee be all honour and glory forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Almighty and eternal God! In thine hand are the ordinances of nature; and with thee is the number of our months. Having experienced fresh proofs of thy care and bounty, we would at the close of this day kneel before thee in supplication; and before we compose our bodies to sleep, would take a few moments from weariness to lift up our thoughts to thy perfections, and send up our requests to thy throne of mercy. How happy should we feel, that there is one above us, who will hear our prayers, and who can do for us more than we can do for ourselves. O God! without thy grace all wisdom is folly, and without thy help all efforts are vain. But

alas! how often have we been unmindful of our dependence; how often have we permitted unsubdued passions to lead us from thee and duty; how often have we forgotten that we profess to be followers of the humble Jesus! Our God and Father! conscious of our errors and sins, we most devoutly supplicate thy grace and pardon. Through Jesus Christ be merciful to us sinners; and hereafter so discipline us, that we may be duly sensible that we are pensioners on thy bounty and dependent on thy power. O suffer us not to make shipwreck of our best hopes, through ambition or vanity; but wilt thou keep our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death. Enable us so to govern our bodily appetites, that they may answer the useful ends for which thou hast implanted them in our nature. Enable us to know ourselves, in order that we may eradicate our evil propensities, before they shall have gained a dangerous strength. To this end we pray for that effectual faith in Jesus Christ, which is a shield in every temptation, a guide in every duty. O may the true spirit of Jesus dwell in our souls, and we feel the power of religion in our hearts. O God! may we have a more devoted love towards thee, a more active faith in our Saviour, and more genuine charity

towards our fellow men. May we be Christians in spirit and in deed. May we exercise that godly sorrow for our sins, which worketh repentance unto life, and may we place the Lord always before us. Grant unto us more faith and hope; more kindness and love; more compassionate feelings and more benevolent affections; more virtuous sympathies and a more devotional spirit. May we therefore search the scriptures daily, and study these oracles of divine truth with that seriousness and self-application, which shall completely imbue our souls with the piety and purity which pervade them. Give to our understandings spiritual light. O thou Fountain of knowledge! give us wisdom, the assistant of thy seats; send her from thy holy heavens, from the throne of thy greatness, that she may be present with us, and labour with us, and teach us what is acceptable to thee. Throw not a cloud over our prospects; but gives us hopes full of immortality. May we look beyond the perplexities of an earthly course to a higher portion and a better happiness than the world can give.

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And now, O Holy Father, would we close our prayers, imploring, with renewed earnestness, thy providential direction in all our ways; kind

deliverance from trouble; abundant spiritual blessings for ourselves and others; gracious forgiveness of our manifold sins; more inward peace and satisfaction; greater progress in holiness; firmer establishment in every good word and work; and above all, a reception at death into thine hands, and a full admission at last to eternal glory.

These we ask, in his name in whom thou hast promised to hear us always; and through him wilt thou accept us, now and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O THOU, who art the Rewarder of all them that diligently seek thee! Merciful God, receive with thy gracious audience, the prayers and praises of thy children.

We adore thee as the greatest and best of Beings, the Source of all power, wisdom, goodness, and hope. Without thee we can do nothing; and on thee we depend from day to day. Thine energy sustains, thy presence animates, thy gracious influence blesses the universe. Our ways and purposes are exposed to thine inspection; our advantages and sorrows are

dispensed by thy providence. Thy mercy has given us a Redeemer and Guide; and thine undeserving love adds to our days and satisfactions, that we may be drawn to devote our hearts to thy service.

Receive our thanks, great God, for our being, our reason, our health, our friends, our food and raiment, and all the other comforts and conveniences of life. Most of all we thank thee for sending thy Son to save us from sin and death, by raising us to thee and holiness. We rejoice that we are adopted, by christianity, into the family of heaven, and are all enabled to cry Abba, Father. While we live on the earth, we pray that we may all be of one mind, love as brethren, and live in peace; that thou, the God of peace and love, mayest be with us.

But, O Lord, we lament the sins that separate us from thee, our Father. We are disobedient children, and have not done those things which we should have done, and which we might have done. We have wasted much time, abused many privileges, and omitted to pray to thee as we ought. O God! how shall we stand before thee, who knowest all our sins of ignorance and presumption? We will come in the name of Jesus, our Mediator, and throw ourselves upon thine infinite mercy; intreating

thee to make us truely penitent, that we may be forgiven. May the fetters of sin be broken, and we be visited by the liberty, wherewith Christ makes us free.

May we each one of us do all in our power to advance thy glory, by advancing the good of our fellow men. May parents rightly estimate the talents put into their hands. In the momentous work of education, may they teach their children to view thee as a kind and watchful Father, who is able and willing to do more for them, than any earthly parent. Forbid that they should ever forget, that their offspring belong to thee; and that, if, through their criminal neglect or bad example, thy moral creatures suffer, thou wilt require them at their hands. Grant them care to nurture and strengthen every power and faculty, and give them wisdom to turn each into its proper channel. O may parents impart to their children such views of thee, of Jesus Christ, and of duty, that, as they increase in age, they may increase in favour with God and man. And may children remember their solemn obligations to their parents, and do all in their power to gratify and assist them. May they remember how many anxious hours have been passed for them; and be induced to make returns, by pure, industrious, and good lives.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may thy rich blessing rest upon the ministers of religion. Give them, we beseech thee, a large measure of the spirit of thy Son; the spirit of understanding and wisdom; the spirit of piety and virtue; the spirit of benevolence and charity. Replenish them with an enlightened and active zeal for the happiness of their brethren. Help them to shine as lights in the world; to be exemplary in their families; exemplary in their public walk, and exemplary in the performance of every christian office. While they study to approve themselves to thee, may they be honoured and esteemed by those for whom they labour, and rejoice in the assurance that their work is not in vain in the Lord. And, finally grant, that they and we, being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone, may become an holy temple unto thee.

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Hear us, O God, of thine infinite mercy, in these our petitions, which we offer up in the name of thy Son; and thine be all the glory and praise now and evermore. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O God, the Author of nature! to whom the world owes its being and support! In compliance with thy gracious invitation, we would come to thee with our wants, and express to thee our gratitude. We would raise our affections to thee, in humble trust and supreme veneration. The heavens are thy throne; the earth is thy footstool. Honour and majesty are before thee. Powerful is thine arm; unsearchable are thy judgments; righteous is thy reign, and with thee there is no respect of persons. Thy displeasure is revealed against all ungodliness and wickedness; thy mercy is sure to the humble and penitent; thy counsels are counsels of peace, and thy chastisements are chastisements of love. We address ourselves to thee, as creatures who cannot exist without thy support; who cannot be happy without thy blessing. We thank thee for all those satisfactions and comforts, which have sustained, cheered, and gladdened us in every stage of our pilgrimage. O God! we devoutly thank thee, that we were made with capacities to know and love thee forever. In an especial manner, we bless thee for the divine mission of thy Son; for

redemption through him, even the remission of sins; for the possession of his glorious gospel; for the privilege of freely inquiring into its meaning, and for the liberty of openly professing our faith.

What continual gratitude is due to thee, that his doctrines clearly enlighten the human mind; that his precepts plainly point out the path of duty; that his example incites and encourages our works of love; that his death speaks peace and joy to the upright believer; that his resurrection from the grave establishes our confidence in him, as our Saviour and Redeemer; and that his ascension to glory enlivens our best and dearest hopes.

But, O Father, we lament our lukewarmness, our disobedience, and our ingratitude. We are sinful and weak and erring. O God, cast us not off, but give us grace hereafter to use faithfully the talents we possess, and to act worthily of our holy vocation. Help us to shun all presumption, and to maintain a humble mind. Preserve us from those prejudices, which pervert the judgment; from those passions, which debase the understanding; from those mistakes, which weaken the principles of christian virtue, and from those superstitious fears, which betray men into unworthy conceptions of thee.

Holy Father! assist us to know thee more and more, continually; to understand thy will in our exalted destination; to make thee the object of our highest confidence and joy; to love thee with all our souls, and to walk according to all thy holy commandments.

May we also learn more of that Saviour, who was meek and lowly in heart; take his yoke upon us, and find his promised rest and peace. May our faith in him grow stronger and more efficacious, and the same mind be in us, which was in him. O may his gospel be completely successful in correcting our errors; in forming within us the amiable graces of the christian character; in supporting us under the afflictions of this transitory life, and in preparing us for the glory which is about to be revealed. Having lived as his true followers, may the remembrance of his crucifixion and triumph banish every fear from our bosoms in the hour of death. And in the day of judgment, may thy grace give us the portion of those to whom the Saviour will say—Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

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O thou, our Great Preserver! We would, at the close of another day, call on thee with sentiments of gratitude, and the confidence of hope. Keep us this night under thy watchful eye, and if consistent with thy will and our best good, permit us to see the light of another day; and to thee, the Author of our condition, shall be the glory, honour, and dominion forever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O THOU who saidst—Let there be light; and there was light! Infinite Jehovah! thy hand laid the foundations of the earth, and stretched forth the expanse of heaven. How beautiful and grand are the exhibitions of thy power! But how infinitely superior art thou, the great Creator of all things. Thou rulest with an uncontrollable sway; and all things are open to thine inspection and subject to thy will. Thou increasest the nations, and thou destroyest them. Thou killest and thou makest alive. Thou woundest and thou healest. Thou bringest low and raisest up. Thou art God alone. Thou makest spirits thine angels, and

flames of fire thy ministers. By thine appointment, seed-time and harvest, summer and winter, day and night, do not cease. The laws of nature are thy continued agency, and all their effects are the dispensations of thy providence.

With the opening day we would come to present to our heavenly Protector the tribute of thanksgiving. During the defenceless hours of sleep, thine eye hath watched us as steadily as though we were the only objects of thy care. Thy presence hath been the presence of a Father.

While we rejoice in the light which renews the face of nature, what thanks, what ardent thanks do we not owe thee, the God of nature and grace, that the day-spring from on high hath visited us! that the sun of righteousness hath risen upon us, with healing under his wings, to give light to them that sat in darkness, and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Heavenly Father! we lament the many unworthy returns we have made for thy great and undeserved goodness. When we calmly review our past lives, and compare our conduct with the requisitions of thy holy laws, we find abundant cause for humiliation. We lament the wanderings of our minds, the coldness of

our affections, and the languor of our prayers. We deeply lament that we know so little of religion, and feel so little of its power. O God! give us the comfort of thy pardoning love, that we may have hope. O make thyself known to us in our moral restoration: and grant, that hereafter we may have the true love of thee in our souls, a lively faith in thy Son, and a pure christian benevolence to our fellow men. O may we exemplify, in all our actions, the spirit of that law, which requires doing to others, as we wish others should do to us.

In our daily intercourse with each other, may we obey the laws of equity and kindness. May we be honest and just in our dealings; courteous and gentle in our conversation; tender of the reputation of our neighbour; candid to each other's frailties and infirmities; kind and compassionate to the needy and the afflicted; grateful to our friends and benefactors; generous and forgiving to our enemies; and charitable to all men.

Grant, O God, that we may be discreet in ordering our affairs; industrious in performing the business of our stations; moderate in our desires, and temperate in our pleasures; and, at all times, heartily disposed to every good word and work; that by patient continuance

in welldoing, we may seek for glory, honour, and immortality.

Bless this family, and each one of us now before thee; and let the voice of joy, health, and safety, be heard in our dwelling: make our walls salvation, and our gates praise. Enable us to distinguish things that differ, and to approve such as are excellent. Let neither poverty nor riches estrange our hearts from thee. What we need wilt thou grant us, and what we possess wilt thou aid us to use aright. Let not praise fill us with pride, or censure with discontent. Impious would it be for us to prescribe to thee, the manner in which thou shouldst regulate our lot. But, O God, however thou shalt deal with us, give us, we beseech thee, that holiness, without which no man can see the Lord. Let our lives be useful, and our last days tranquil; and by death, wilt thou bring thy children from labour to repose, from combat to victory.

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Aid us, Holy Father, in the duties of this day. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

SUPREMELY great and glorious Lord our God! Thou makest darkness thy pavilion round about thee. Thou art a Being whom no mortal eye can see, and live. O may it be our happiness to have right views of thine existence, agency, and perfections; knowing that no distance of place can remove us from thy presence, no length of time erase us from thy memory, no clouds of darkness veil us from thy view. O may the solemn thought, that thou art with us wherever we are, sink deep into our minds, and have a practical influence on our lives.

Having daily united to partake of thy bounty, we would now unite to render thee our thanks. Blessed be God who daily loadeth us with his benefits, and giveth us all things richly to enjoy. We thank thee that the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and we enjoy a goodly heritage. Thou hast admitted us to the privileges of children; and while we live, we would celebrate thy praise. We would do thy will with fidelity, and bear thy whole will with resignation.

O God of wisdom! teach us the knowledge of ourselves. May we keep our hearts with all

diligence, and, amidst the trials of this world, maintain a constant habit of self-government. In prosperity, may we be humble, temperate, and charitable, remembering we are men; in adversity, may we be patient, and wholly resigned to thine unerring providence. Save us, O gracious God, from anger and malice; from pride and presumption; and from the fatal influence of seductive examples. Give us prudence to direct our affairs; resolution to preserve our innocence; and wisdom to retain our integrity. But especially we pray thee to revive among us the spirit of true religion. O revive an ardent zeal for thy glory, of r the spread of truth and for the practice of righteousness. O may the obedience of our lives praise thee. Fit us for what we are to meet; and when we shall have answered the purposes of thy wisdom and goodness here, grant us admission to that state, where we shall see the sublimity of thy designs, and the wisdom of the means by which they are accomplished.

O God of the spirits of all flesh! hear our petitions for our brethren of thy family. As they are beloved and cherished by thee, may they be so by us. May we be enabled to lighten their burdens; to remove from their path the stone of stumbling; to befriend their good undertak-

ings, and to unite them more closely to each other.

Reform the sad errors of the christian world. Grant that the worship of thee, O Father, in spirit and in truth, established by Jesus Christ, may every where prevail, that thy moral laws may not be rendered ineffectual by false notions of religion, nor the progress of the gospel be obstructed by the wicked lives of those who profess it. Put an end to all persecution and usurpation over the judgments and consciences of mankind; and give us the gospel charity toward all, who, in sincerity, differ from us in opinion. Bless, O God, the means of education; and strengthen the hand that is extended to support learning. Send forth thy light and truth through the whole earth. O may christian temples be raised to thee in every land, and the incense of pure worship ascend to thee from pious hearts, in every rigion. Smile upon our land and direct our rulers. Bless the ministers of religion, and the people committed to their charge.

We would sympathize with those in sorrow and pain; and may the interruption of their temporal enjoyments be abundantly compensated by their spiritual improvement. Comfort those who mourn, and plead the cause of the orphan,

the widow, and the friendless. Be thou the guide of the young, the support of the aged, and all that, to thy creatures, which their several wants require.

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Gracious Giver of every good! we thank thee for the salvation of the day past. Another step is taken in the journey of life; and as our days speed their flight, grant that we may number them so as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. Be thou our guide and defence through all the changes of time and nature; and at last receive us to thyself in glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O THOU, whose name alone is Jehovah! who art the Most High over all the earth. Who is a God like unto thee, glorious in holiness, doing wonders? Who, by searching, can find out God? Who can find out the Almighty unto perfection? O God! there is none great but thee! Who shall think to number the ages of thine eternity; to describe the brightness of thy glory; to define the limits of thy power; to

enumerate the treasures of thy goodness; to fathom the depths of thy wisdom, or to estimate the riches of thy grace? Such knowledge is too wonderful for us! With profound veneration we would adore the Being we cannot comprehend. From thee, who livest forever and ever, we, who are but of yesterday, would ask protection and guidance. We would rejoice that thy power is constantly directed by unerring wisdom, and exerted in effecting the purposes of thy boundless goodness. We, this moment, stand the monuments of thy sustaining love; for we have again been raised from the death-like insensibility of sleep, to a new existence. We are before thee now, to render our thanksgivings as the disciples of Jesus Christ. To thee our spirits would ascend in the prayer of faith. Heavenly Father! we acknowledge with gratitude the daily bounties of thy providence; our temporal favours; our spiritual privileges; our private mercies, and the share we have had in public blessings. O may we show our thankfulness in our strict compliance with all thy laws. We pray for steadfastness in our religious purposes, and deprecate that transient goodness, which is compared to the morning cloud and the early dew. Cleaving to thee and holding fast that

which is good, may we endure unto the end. Increase, O God, our delight in thy law, and direct our examination of the sacred scriptures. With just solicitude may we ask for the right paths. Excite our diligence in reading, meditation, and prayer. Preserve us from following a multitude to do evil; arm us against the influence of corrupt society; may our choice of companions fall upon such as fear thee and keep thy commandments; fortify us against the enticements of sinners; and prevent our entering the path of the wicked. May we be content with that portion of good things allotted us, trusting thy fatherly care to fulfil our reasonable hopes, and supply our necessary wants.

We implore thine influence to beget within us a strong and practical faith in Jesus Christ. May we meditate upon thy purposes in giving a Saviour to the world, till our hearts are warmed with true devotion. O God! we pray for more religious zeal, for more active piety, for more christian charity, and for more divine light. Grant to each of us fidelity in our several stations; and while on earth may we work the works of thee, our God, who placedst us here. May our expectations, relative to futurity, influence every thought, wish, and pursuit. May we consider ourselves as stewards, and

remember the account we are to render of our talents. And O may it be our happy lot in the day of inquiry and sentence, to hear the approving words, Well done, good and faithful servants.

May the ministers of the gospel experience in themselves those renovating influences of religion which they preach to others. By them, may the hungry receive the bread that came down from heaven, and the thirsty receive the pure waters of life; by them may the stranger be taken into our great Shepherd's fold; and the prisoner visited by the liberty wherewith Christ makes his people free.

Everlasting Father, most holy and merciful! thy children look to thee for the protection of life in this world, and for its happy continuance in the next. It is our first and earnest desire, to perform all our duties, under a deep sense of the importance of religion, leaving our interests to thy disposal.

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And now will the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O THOU, who art the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise God, wilt thou hear us with favour when we pray, and grant us thine assistance and blessing. O Lord, open thou our lips, and our mouths shall show forth thy praise. Thou art the first, and thou the last,—the ever living and true God. At the close of another day and another week, we are assembled in the scene of our domestic blessings to give thanks to thee and to glorify thy name. We are thy creatures, and we would come to acknowledge our entire and absolute dependence on thee; we are thy children, and we would look to our Father in heaven with reverence and love; we are cherished and supported by thy bounty, and we desire that our hearts may rise in the offering of gratitude to thee; we are frail, and ignorant, and weak, and we would pray for thy guidance, assistance, and support; we are sinners, and we would implore the mercy of the God of grace. Enable us, O God, to come before thee with a deep and impressive faith in thy being and providence, with joy in thy wise and righteous government, with gratitude for thine unnumbered mercies,

with the spirit of acquiescence in thine appointments and of submission to thine authority. By all around us and all within us, we are taught that thou art good, and that thy tender mercies are over thy works. If sometimes the potion of life is bitterness and sorrow, we bless thee for the assurance we have, that afflictions are messengers sent for wise and good purposes; and that like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him; for he knoweth our frame, he remembereth that we are dust. From thy bounteous hand, O God, all our blessings descend, and every day we experience thy goodness in our social enjoyments, in the health of our bodies and the peace of our minds, in our means of improvement and happiness. Through Jesus Christ thy grace has been continually proffered to us, and the light of divine truth has been shining upon us. We would particularly remember with gratitude the mercies which we have received during the past day and the past week. In the midst of our various cares and pursuits, thou hast been pleased to protect and bless the members of this family; and, notwithstanding our follies and sins, our day of grace is yet prolonged, and we are spared, while so many have gone down to darkness and dust.

O God, may each heart among us be an altar to thy praise. Suffer us not to go on from day to day, and from week to week, supported by thy power and blessed by thy bounty, and yet unmindful of the hand which upholds us and makes us happy. Give us grace to be grateful, as we ought, for that best gift of thy goodness, the gift of thy Son, our blessed Saviour. Glory be to God in the highest for him, who came to seek and to save that which was lost, to proclaim peace and mercy to man, to bring back thine erring children to thee, their Father, and to introduce us to an inheritance of hopes incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. O thou, whose mercy is not wearied by our ingratitude, we pray that our hearts may be touched and softened by a sense of our own unworthiness. What are we, O our Father, that thy blessings, temporal and spiritual, should be thus lavished upon us? We confess that we have wandered from thee, and wilt thou restore us; that we are polluted, and wilt thou purify us; that we are guilty, and wilt thou pardon us. Especially we pray, that thou wouldst forgive us for the errors, and follies, and sins, of which we may have been guilty during the past day; and enable us, for the future, to have better motives and better pur-

poses, more purity and earnestness in good things, more love and devotion to thee. O thou, to whom the darkness and the light are both alike, and who art the Protector of all that put their trust in thee; before we retire to repose this night, we would raise our hearts to thee, and seek thy blessing. We beseech thee to have each member of this family in thine holy keeping, and shelter us under the wing of thy providence. May we rise in the morning with hearts prepared for the duties and instructions of the sabbath; may our minds be filled with tranquil, devout, and solemn thoughts and remembrances; and may the things which belong to our everlasting peace, possess our souls. We offer our prayer in the name of him, who hath loved us and given himself for us, through whom be rendered unto thee, the most high God, unceasing praises. Amen.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS.

PRAYERS.

For a Sick Person.

BE merciful, O Lord! in a particular manner to this family, into which thou hast permitted sickness to enter. Graciously support thy *servant* under thine afflicting hand. If it seem good in thy sight, bless the means which are using for *his** restoration and usefulness. May the fruit of affliction be the taking away of sin. Endue *him* with patience to possess *his* soul, and to resign *himself* to thine all-wise disposal. And may every disorder we feel in ourselves or observe in others, make us more sensible of the frailty of our nature; and engage us to apply our hearts, with greater diligence, to that wisdom which shall prepare us for death and eternity.

* The words, *his*, *him*, *he*, &c. printed in Italics, may be changed into *her*, *she*, &c. as the occasion may require.

For a Sick Child.

O Thou, who art a present help in every time of need! Our trust and hope are in thee! O God, we come with our intercessions for thy young *servant*, who is labouring under pain and sickness. We beseech thee, if it be thy will, to remove the disorder under which *he* labours, and to restore *him* to strength and health. Suffer not the wishes and hopes of *his* parents to be disappointed; but in thy great mercy, spare *him* to be the comfort and support of their advancing years, and to be useful in the world. But whatever thou hast determined concerning *him*, thy will, O God, be done. Into thy hands we commit ourselves and all our enjoyments; we desire at all times, patiently to submit to thine appointments; and we humbly pray, that, whatever shall be the issue of this visitation, thou wouldst endue the minds of those whom it more nearly concerns, with resignation to thy holy providence; and may we all, by what we suffer as well as by what we enjoy, be trained up for that world, where there shall be no more sorrow, nor pain, nor death.

In time of Sickness.

O Thou, who knowest what is best for us. In this time of sympathy and distress, we call upon thee, who art the great Physician of soul and body, for compassion and deliverance. With humble submission to thy wisdom and goodness, may we regard the lives dear to us, as at thy disposal, and in every instance bow to thy holy will. Thou, O Lord! healest all our diseases, thou redeemest our lives from destruction, and crownest us with lovingkindness and tender mercy. Our help is in thee alone. Look upon us, we beseech thee, in pity and in love. Rebuke the malady which prevails among us, and may the lives and health of thy people be precious in thy sight.

In time of War.

Wilt thou, who stillest the noise of the seas, and the tumult of the people, cause the wrath of man to praise thee, and the remainder of wrath do thou restrain. Suffer not our enemies to be thy scourge unto us; but remove from us the calamity of war, and may the alarm thereof no more be heard in our streets. Prevent, we be-

seech thee, the effusion of human blood, and cause our enemies to be at peace with us on just and honourable terms; and may we long enjoy its blessings, sitting under our own vines and fig-trees, having none to molest or to make us afraid. O God! wilt thou hasten the time, when the reign of peace shall commence under the Prince of peace, and when wars shall cease to the ends of the earth.

After the Death of any Person in a Family.

ETERNAL God! without whose direction and providence, nothing happeneth to us in life or death; out of the depths of affliction and sorrow, unto thee do we lift up our souls; for our help and our hopes are in thee. Our lives are in thy hands; and all our enjoyments are at thy disposal. Thou didst at first call us into life, by thy mighty power; and, when thou takest away our breath, we die, and return to the dust.

In the midst of life we are in death; to whom shall we go for succour, but unto thee, O Lord! who changest not, and who hast been the refuge of the children of men, in all generations? The Lord liveth; let our hearts rejoice; and let the

God of our salvation be forever exalted. Under all the troubles of this mortal life, thy mercy, which endureth forever, is our confidence and joy. Behold thy servants, O Lord; do with us whatsoever seemeth good in thy sight: not our wills, but thine be done. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to the lively hope of an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

Sanctify unto us, O God, the dispensation of thy providence which hath taken from the bosom of this family one of its members. May we, when we see one after another called away, be induced to consider what persons we ought to be. May we submit to thy will, and be able to make a wise improvement of thy dealings. O may we live as those who have here no continuing city; and prepare to follow those who have gone before us.

After the Death of a Neighbour.

EVER living God! in whose sight a thousand ages are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night! be thou the support of thy servants who are now mourning the loss of a relative and friend. Sanctify, we beseech thee, this visitation of thy providence. May they experience the consolations which religion affords. By the frequent instances of mortality around us, may we learn to know our end, and the measure of our days, what it is, that we may know how frail we are. Neighbour after neighbour art thou calling away, and house after house hath witnessed the footsteps of death. Merciful God! O teach us to live in such a manner as we shall wish we had done, when we come to die. Whatsoever our hands find to do, may we do it with all our might, since there is no work or device in the grave, whither we are going. Give us grace to follow the good examples of those, who have departed this life in thy faith and fear, that at length we may, with them, be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. May we glorify thee on earth, and finish the work thou hast given us to do, that when we shall leave this world, we may rest in peace; and being found acceptable

in thy sight, may we be received to the reward of faithful servants, through the riches of divine grace in Jesus Christ.

For a Person going on a Journey.

ALMIGHTY God! the Preserver of all thy creatures, and the Confidence of the ends of the earth! We humbly recommend to thy gracious protection, thy *servant*, who is going from us. While far distant from us, may thy providence defend *him*. Preserve *him* from the peculiar dangers to which *he* may be exposed, and above all, from moral evil. Succeed *him* in all *his* lawful and honourable designs, and restore *him* to *his* friends in innocence and safety, that *he* may have fresh occasions to celebrate the praises of thy goodness with a thankful heart. And may we long live together, to enjoy the pleasures of domestic life, and to manifest our thankfulness for thy various mercies.

For a Person going on a Voyage.

ETERNAL and merciful Jehovah! Thou art our Protector, and thou art our Hope. Thou spreadest out the heavens, and rulest the raging of

the ocean. At thy command the winds and storms arise; and at thy word they are still. Receive thy *servant*, we beseech thee, under thine almighty protection. Preserve *him* from the dangers of the sea, and the attempts of wicked men. Be with *him* in other lands for *his* security and *his* health; and may *his* life be very precious in thy sight. In the appointed time, wilt thou restore *him* to *his* native country in safety, to enjoy the fruits of *his* industry and labour, the benefits of society, and the endearments of domestic life, with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies, who art the giver of all good.

For Rain.

O Thou, who art the Author of nature! Thou didst promise to give rain unto thy faithful people, in due season; and hast promised by thy Son, that all who seek thy kingdom and the righteousness thereof, shall receive all things necessary to their bodily sustenance; send us, we beseech thee, in this our necessity, such moderate showers of rain, that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort and relief. No longer, we pray thee, make the heavens over our heads as brass, nor the rain of our land,

powder and dust. But wilt thou who art the Father of the rain, visit and water thy weary heritage, that there may be grass for the cattle, and corn for the service of man. The year, O God, is thine; and wilt thou crown it with thy blessing.

For favourable Weather.

FATHER of mercies! while we acknowledge thee in all thy dealings with us and bow with submission to thy chastisements, we would implore thy smiles upon this season, in which our plenty may be turned into scarceness. We would see thee in what we suffer. May thy blessing yet be upon the year; and the fruits of the earth in due time be brought to perfection. O may we learn by thy dispensations, to amend our lives; and while we rejoice in thy clemency, may we keep from abusing thy various bounties by intemperance. Grant that we may use them with sobriety and thankfulness, being bountiful and charitable to those who are in want. Forgive us, O Lord, our many transgressions, and deal with us according to thine abundant mercy in Jesus Christ.

THANKSGIVINGS,

For Recovery from Sickness.

To the praises which we always owe to thee, the Author of every good, for all thy kindness, we would, at this time, call upon our souls to thank thee, with peculiar emotions of gratitude, for the restoration of thy *servant* to health. Thou hast preserved *him* from death; thou hast spoken the word of healing, and *he* liveth. We will unite to praise thee, for thou hast heard our supplications, and art become our salvation. Thou hast chastened us; but hast delivered us from the evil we feared. Perfect the recovery of thy *servant*. Give us a deep sense of thy mercy in this instance; assist thy *servant* to devote *himself* to thy glory; and enable us all so to improve the blessing of health, that we may look forward with joy to that world, where there will be no sickness nor pain.

For Peace.

O THOU God of peace, and lover of concord! accept our heartfelt thanks for the return and continuance of our national peace and tranquillity. May we be duly sensible of this instance of thy goodness to us, and by making a proper improvement of it, secure thy future favour, and thus be that happy people, whose God is the Lord. Unite the hearts of all mankind in the bonds of brotherly love; and may the happy time soon come, when the calamities of war shall cease forever, and peace and righteousness universally prevail.

After a Journey.

O FATHER, our Refuge and our Strength! Protection, comfort, and success are all from thee. We join with thy *servant* in returning thee thanks, for preserving *him* from all the dangers to which *he* has been exposed, and for restoring *him* to *his* family and friends, in health and safety. While we rejoice in every instance of thy goodness to ourselves or friends, may we be careful to express the sense we have of our obligations to thee, by a suitable life and conversation.

After a Voyage.

We thank thee, Lord of heaven and earth; that thou hast graciously watched over thy *servant* during his exposure to the dangers of the sea. Thine arm hath been under *him* for *his* safety. Write upon *his* heart the characters of gratitude. May *he* be duly sensible of thy continual providence, and determine to dedicate to thee the life thou hast preserved.

For Rain.

O God, our heavenly Father! who by thy gracious providence dost cause the rain to descend upon the earth, that it may bring forth fruit for the use of man; we give thee humble thanks that it hath pleased thee, in our necessity to send us a joyful rain, and to refresh and fertilize the earth, to the great comfort of us thy servants, who desire to be grateful to thee for thy seasonable kindness, and to acknowledge ourselves indebted unto thee, not only for this, but for all the blessings we enjoy.

For fair Weather.

O God, who hast mercifully relieved us in this seasonable and happy change of weather! we praise thee for this mercy; and far from overlooking the common bounties of thy providence, we desire to receive them with true gratitude, and to show our thankfulness by using them as we ought. While we live by thy goodness, may we live to thy praise.

For a fruitful Season.

Bountiful Benefactor! all that we possess proceeds from thy munificence. To thy sovereign goodness we are indebted for all the advantages of our condition. We rejoice at this time with humble thankfulness in the gifts of thine undeserved bounty; that thou hast caused the earth to yield its increase, and crowned the year with thy goodness. Year after year hast thou furnished out the treasures of nature for our support, and we have had all things richly to enjoy. Whilst thou art thus sending down thy blessings upon us, dispose us to live in a sober, temperate, and charitable enjoyment of them, and to bring forth the fruits of holiness all the days of our life.

For Health, or any particular Blessing.

O THOU first and best of Beings! We thank thee that the voice of health and peace is heard in our habitation! Imploring thy favour for the future, and acknowledging thy goodness in all the various blessings bestowed on us; we would particularly offer thee our fervent thanks for the recent and important blessing, which fills our hearts with joy. For the pleasure it yields, for the relief it affords, and for the circumstances of comfort it brings, accept, O Father, our heartfelt praise. While thy smiles are upon us, may we remember that our strength is from thee, and that when thou withdrawest thy face, we are troubled. O may thy goodness lead us to thee; and may we rejoice as though we rejoiced not, considering that the fashion of this world passeth away.

FAMILY PRAYERS ADAPTED TO PARTICULAR TIMES.

At the Close of the Year.

ETERNAL Jehovah! In thee we live, and move, and have our being. In thy hand is our breath; it is because thou hast sustained us, that we have continued to this day. With praise to thee, the God of our lives, we come into thy presence, and worship at thy footstool. Thou art the unfailing Source of mercy. Thou didst bring us into this world, and place us in this probationary state. Thou didst shield us from every danger, during the exposures of infancy; and every day have we tasted that the Lord is gracious. We fed upon thy bounties, before we knew thee to be the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Thou hast helped us in all our troubles. Often hast thou healed our diseases, removed our sorrows, and renewed our strength. Thy candle has shone upon our dwelling, thy love has nourished us, and thy smiles have gladdened our hearts. Whilst many, during the last year, have been cut down, and have passed

into an awful eternity, we are yet numbered with the living. Through the riches of thy long-suffering and forbearance, thou art continuing us in a state of trial, giving us space for repentance, and favouring us with thy holy Gospel, and with all necessary means of grace and reformation.

God of compassion! take not thy spirit from us. Continue to us thy heavenly blessings. Prepare us for future changes in our condition, and let them be sanctified to our truest interest and happiness. We commit ourselves to thy care; we devote ourselves to thy service; we refer all events concerning us, to thine infinite wisdom and fatherly goodness. Lead us seasonably to consider the things that belong to our peace. Give us realizing views of death, and a judgment to come. Enable us to depart from the world, when thou shalt call us away, with tranquillity and comfort of mind, exempt from the terrors of guilt; and bring us to the enjoyment of thy favour in the realms of light and glory, through the mediation of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

At the Beginning of the Year.

O THOU who art the same from everlasting to everlasting! God of the spirits of all flesh! Preserver of the children of men! hear in mercy thy servants, who raise their hearts unto thee. We acknowledge, that, in seasons past, we have often been too earnest about things of sense and time, too regardless of the objects of faith and futurity. We confess we have too often walked in a vain show, and disquieted ourselves in vain. We cannot deny that we have been oftentimes undutiful and unthankful. Shouldst thou judge without mercy, we must be utterly destitute of hope. Shouldst thou deal with us according to our sins, we must be miserable indeed. But we rejoice that thou desirest not the ruin of thy creatures, but rather that they should repent and live. It is our desire, O God, to cast off all the unfruitful works of darkness, and to walk as children of the light and of the day. It is our purpose, that this year shall witness our greater reformation from every thing that is amiss in us, and our increasing improvement in the graces of the christian character.

If it be consistent with the purposes of thy inscrutable wisdom, we pray, O Lord! that our

lives may be spared; not merely that we may enjoy an animal existence, but that we may be furnished with an opportunity of doing and becoming better. We commit all our concerns to thee; and would submit to those circumstances, which thou, who alone knowest what is best for us, shalt ordain. If thou wilt, we desire the continuance of health and comfort. If thou shouldst send sickness or adversity to us, may we be prepared for these and all other changes in our condition. If it be thy decree, that this year we should die, may we be ready for our departure. We dare not say we will do this or that; but we would cherish one resolution, to become and always to be such as thou shalt be pleased to approve.

Heavenly Father! do thou preserve us from every injurious delay. Let not the night of darkness, in which no man can work, overtake us unawares. Forbid that we should ever presume on life, or boast of tomorrow, or be immoderately attached to earthly things. May we always do with diligence what thou shalt appoint us to perform. If death shall approach us by slow advances, may it find us well employed; and if we are suddenly called to exchange worlds, may it not be our lot, to have treasured up fear and remorse.

O thou, who art the God of our lives and the length of our days! We would begin this year with thee; and in thy service we would spend it. Aid us in all our doings by thy most gracious favour, and preserve us from every evil. And when our years shall cease to revolve on earth, O receive us to thy presence, where there is neither beginning of years nor end of days. Hear us, O God! through our great Mediator, and unto thee, the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Spring.

O God! the Creator and Preserver of all things! With unerring wisdom thou maintainest the beauty and order of nature. We look up with joy and confidence to thy gracious power, which causeth the returning seasons to know their place. Thou hast sent forth thy spirit; thou renewest the face of the earth. The laws of nature are thy government, and the effects of them are the dispensations of thy providence. Summer and winter, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, are directed by thee. At one time thou givest snow like wool, and scatterest the

hoar frost like ashes; at another time thou bringest food out of the earth, and causest grass to grow for cattle, and herb for the service of man.

Because thine eye is upon the year, from the beginning even unto the end, we are now called to rejoice that the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear upon earth, the singing of birds is come; the tree puts forth its leaves, and the fields give forth their fragrance; the mountains and hills break forth into singing, and the trees of the forest clap their hands. O Lord, how manifold are thy works!

We bless thee for the beneficial influences of the heavenly bodies; for the light of the sun, and the constant revolution of the seasons, and all the rich provision thou hast made for our present support and delight. We bless thee for all our comforts during the inclemencies of the winter, which is now past; for all the pleasant intercourse of domestic life, and the kind offices of mutual friendship and good neighbourhood; and above all, we rejoice in our capacities for contemplating thy mighty works with emotions of religious praise and pleasure.

We now behold the effects of thy powerful energy. All nature bespeaks a present Deity. We would look up to thee, from whom cometh

our help. May devotion invigorate and sanctify the labours of the approaching season. May he who plougheth, plough with religious hope. May he who soweth, duly rejoice in the expectation of his reaping. Bless thou the springing of the year, and enrich the earth with the rain of heaven; may our pastures be clothed with flocks, our vallies covered with corn, and the year crowned with thy goodness.

Above all, we beseech thee, to multiply the spiritual seed of divine truth. Crown with an abundant blessing our spiritual labours; and while we reap the harvest of bread, O may we reap the richer fruits of righteousness. As our great Exemplar hath taught us, we pray for our daily bread; and wilt thou feed us with food convenient for us. By our spiritual improvements, may we be like unto that earth, which, drinking in the rain that cometh oft upon it, bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, and receiveth blessing from God; and not like unto that, which, bearing thorns and briars, is rejected, and nigh unto cursing, whose end is to be burned.

Establish us in every good word and work, and unite us more closely to him who is the true vine. As branches in him, wilt thou mercifully spare and purge us, and may we glorify thee,

our heavenly Father, by bearing much fruit. Unto thee, O God, who art the Author of our condition, and the Foundation of our hopes, be praises everlasting. Amen.

Summer.

ETERNAL God, the Creator of the world, whose almighty power and continual agency are seen by the things which are made! We beseech thee to enable us to derive instruction from the prospects of the present season. We would raise our thoughts to thee, by whom the sun rises in his strength, and in his daily course diffuses light and heat over the world; by whom the earth is overspread with trees, and herbs, and flowers; who art the Father of the former and latter rain, and nightly begettest the drops of the dew. We adore thee in all the various productions of the earth, which thou art now causing to advance to maturity for the support, comfort, and delight of thy creatures. We desire never to forget thine hand in the glorious scenes by which we are surrounded, or cease to receive all the moral lessons thy works convey. While we gratefully adore thy goodness in the present circumstances

of this life, teach us to trust in thy mercy and deliverance when adversity shall overtake us. May we preserve on our minds an affecting sense of this truth, that all flesh is grass, and the glory of man, as the flower of grass. Having been planted in thy vineyard, may we bring forth much good fruit, so that we may finally be numbered among those who are not cumberers of the ground. May our faith increase continually. O grant, that by the milk of thy word we may grow up unto him in all things who is the head, even Christ. Make our souls as a well watered garden, and may the soil, by divine cultivation, yield all the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

We bless thee, whose works as well as words speak thy will, for the confirmation which the season affords to our religious faith. The corn of wheat, that was cast into the ground, has resumed the body that pleased thee. We will inquire no more,—How are the dead raised up, and with what bodies do they come? We rejoice in the prospect of the peaceful bow in the clouds, the early pledge of thine inviolable fidelity, and repose ourselves under the shadow of the Almighty.

O that man would praise the Lord for his goodness and wonderful works to the children

of men! Blessed be the Lord God, from everlasting to everlasting, and let all the people say, Amen.

Autumn.

O THOU, who art giving us all things richly to enjoy! Bountiful Father, we bless thee for the rich provision which thou hast made for our bodily sustenance. Although we have not walked in thy statutes, and kept thy commandments as we ought, yet, by thy mercy, the land has yielded her increase and the trees their fruit. We praise thee for the blessings of the harvest, which have been so abundant, and beseech thee to direct us in the temperate and frugal use of thy various bounties. O may we not expose ourselves to the accusation of wasting thy goods, nor abuse them in riotous living. With humble thanks we would receive and enjoy thy gifts, acknowledging at the same time, that we are not worthy of the rich fruits of thy providence.

Grant, O Father, that our souls may be impressed with divine lessons from the prospects of the season. We have been planted in thy vineyard; we have been united to a choice vine;

but alas! we confess with shame, that we have not brought forth grapes that are good, but wild grapes; and thou mightest in just judgment have taken away the hedge, broken down the wall, trodden under foot thy vineyard, and commanded the clouds no more to rain upon it. But we are witnesses of the divine patience and forbearance. Spare us of thy grace, and grant us a further season to bring forth fruit. When thy love does not constrain obedience, may thy terrors persuade; and by the expectation of the harvest in the end of the world, may we be awakened to sobriety, diligence, and watchfulness. O may we all, at this season, receive the joyful assurance, that the wise and worthy shall reap in due time, if they faint not. Assist us, O God, while we are amidst the rich favours of thy providence, to live to thy praise. We offer our prayers through him in whom we have a hope full of immortality; and in his name be glory to thee forever. Amen.

Winter.

SUPREMELY great and glorious Lord our God! Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever

thou hadst formed the earth or the world, from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. The things which our eyes behold shall perish, but thou shalt endure;—they shall be changed, but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. Thou art calling us, at this time, to witness the periodical decay of nature; yet not without a hope, from the immutability of thy character and laws, that there will be a renovation.

In the order of thy works thou art now giving snow like wool, scattering the hoar-frost like ashes, and sending thy cold, before which none can stand. With devout gratitude we retire to our warm habitations, and solace ourselves with the unity and love of our domestic retreats. We would be particularly mindful of our brethren, who may inhabit the cheerless house of want. O may not our hearts be cold, when we see the naked, nor our hands be shut against the hungry. May the poor every where have occasion to bless the rich, and may prayers, thanksgivings, and alms, unitedly ascend to thee. Appear, O Father, for the protection of those, who are coming on our seacoast at this dangerous season; when they are tossed and afflicted, do thou deliver them, and bring them to their destined haven.

O thou who rulest the year! May our reflections on the season carry religious lessons to our

hearts. We adore thy incomprehensible power, which ordains, in their proper order, the effects we now behold. Thou sendest forth thy commandment upon earth, and the windy storm and tempest fulfil thy pleasure. By thee, the waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. All is the work of thy almighty strength and boundless wisdom. We desire to be filled with a sense of thy care and love, when we consider thy multiplied provisions for the support and comfort of man and beast, during this barren, inclement season. We rejoice before thee in the assurance that the elements are under thy control, subject to thy invariable laws; and that in the appointed time, thou, who bindest the sweet influences of Pleiades, wilt loose the bands of Orion, renew the face of the earth, and spread life and beauty through all nature.

O thou who hast given senses and speech and reason to man! Preserve us from misemploying the leisure now afforded us in excessive or hurtful diversions; but may we use it for cultivating our minds, examining our hearts, and laying up stores of knowledge and goodness. O may the changes of the year lead us to consider how the fashion of this world passeth away, and to place our affections on thee, the unchangeable and eternal good.

By the death of the powers of nature, thou warnest us to remember that we are mortal; and that if, by reason of strength, we live many years, we may expect old age to benumb our faculties, and destroy our activity. By our diligence and fidelity in youth and manhood, may we provide comfortable reflections and pleasing hopes, to cheer us in the days of infirmity and the winter of life.

Blessed be thy name, that as we know thou wilt make the fields, now desolate, to rejoice, so thou wilt raise from the dead those who sleep in Jesus; that this mortal shall put on immortality, and this corruptible shall put on incorruption. O make us thy upright and faithful servants while we live, that we may die in peace, and rest in hope, and rise in glory, through Jesus Christ, the Prince of life, Amen.

Annual Fast.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God! the righteous Lord who loveth holiness; who art a consuming fire to the disobedient and impenitent, but a compassionate Father to such as repent and turn to thee! We would come before thee

this day with a humble confession of sin and the deepest self-abasement, beseeching thee to impress on our minds every argument to repentance and amendment, and to pour out upon the people of our land the spirit of prayer and humiliation.

O thou Supreme Director in human affairs! We thank thee for the advantages of our condition; that we enjoy liberty, safety and plenty, that we do not groan under the miseries of tyranny, and bloodshed, and ruin; that thou hast given us fruitful seasons, and preserved us from famine, pestilence, and war. Surely the lines are fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage. Yet we have made unworthy returns for thy lovingkindness, and shown ourselves undeserviug of thy mercies. We lament that plenty has been abused by luxury, and liberty by licentiousness; our ease and safety by strife, envyings, and divisions. We lament that so little of the power of godliness is manifested; that so many restrain prayer before thee; and after all the expressions of thy will, do yet trample on the authority of thy laws. Surely it is of thy mercy that we are not consumed, and because thy compassions fail not.

O God! awaken us, we intreat thee, to a sense of our manifold and repeated provocations; pardon the crying sins of our nation; forgive all

who humble themselves before thee this day, and spare thy people. Show us the things which belong to our peace, before the best day of reconciliation be past. Fill us with that godly sorrow for sin which works true repentance. O may we no longer abuse thy mercies, but keep, this day, the fast which thou hast chosen; and loosing every bond of wickedness, become a peculiar people, zealous of good works, so that thy displeasure may be turned away, and thou mayest delight to build us up, and not to destroy us.

Grant, we devoutly beseech thee, this day, healing mercy unto us who have corrupted our manners; who have been indifferent to thy worship; neglected the interests of early education; indulged a spirit of animosity, and made no suitable resistance to the inundation of profaneness and immorality. Animate us to rise and join with one heart and soul in promoting the honour of thy name, the interests of religion, and the prosperity and happiness of our land. May it not any longer be a source of lamentation to the righteous, that no man repents of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? May every one rend his heart, and keep such a fast as thou hast chosen.

O thou, who rulest in the kingdoms of men! We intercede for all in authority. The hearts

of rulers are in thy hands. Restrain their evil passions and endue them with that wisdom which is from above, which is first pure and then peaceable. May all their consultations and measures contribute to the stability of our times, to the prosperity of all conditions of men, to the welfare of our children, and to the spreading of thy name and glory in the earth. These blessings we ask, not presuming on the ardency of our prayers, on the sorrow of our minds, or the humiliation of our bodies, but upon thy mercy to repenting and returning sinners through Jesus Christ.

Universal Parent and Governour! Be merciful to the whole race of man: enlighten all who sit in darkness and error; send forth a spirit of peace and good will; restrain the violence of unreasonable men; exalt the meek; put an end to all deception; smile upon the interests of learning, and may no weapon formed against the rights and happiness of men, prosper. Multiply, we beseech thee, the patterns of christian virtue, and the instruments of benefaction to men; extirpate idolatry; direct all flesh to the knowledge of thy Son, and may thy kingdom come, and will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

God of our fathers! We look to thee for thy blessing upon the year, and for thy guidance and

protection of us. Vouchsafe to keep us by thine almighty providence at every period; and at the end of our earthly course receive us to thyself in glory, through him who gave himself for us; through whom to thee be ceaseless praises. Amen.

Annual Thanksgiving.

O THOU, who art good unto all, who exercisest lovingkindness in all the earth, and who hast come nigh to us by Jesus Christ, thy Son! It is thou who holdest our souls in life; who givest us our daily bread, health in our habitations, peace in our borders, and who crownest the year with thy goodness! We desire this day, with affectionate gratitude, to recount thy mercies, and piously to ascribe honour and blessing, glory and praise to thee, our Rock and Fortress, our Strength and Redeemer. We would rest this day before thee, and make it a season of temperate feasting and religious gladness.

How precious have been thy thoughts unto us, O God! how great is the sum of them! We bless thee for thy smiles upon the year; for the warm influences of the sun, and for timely and

refreshing showers upon our fields. We bless thee for preserving our houses from the ravages of fire; for all the health and pleasures we have enjoyed in them; for every portion of bread which has given strength to our bodies; for whatever has arrested the progress of disease; and for the tear of sympathy which has comforted our trouble. We thank thee for every cheerful sensation, when alone; for the pleasures of friendly intercourse; for the benefits of good neighbourhood; for the privileges of public worship; for the maintenance of civil order; the continuance of peace; the administration of justice; for every encouragement to welldoing; every manifestation of useful truth, and for all the advantages of our condition.

God of goodness! direct us graciously to a right improvement of all thy mercies. Preserve us from the wicked indulgence of all fleshly lusts; and from wasting our substance in riotous living. May we enjoy our temporal possessions with temperance, cheerfulness, and contentment. Protect us against the snares of prosperity. May we honour thee with our substance, be rich in good works, and duly esteem thee, the Rock of our salvation.

Perpetuate our privileges both private and common; continue to us the enjoyment of our

civil rights; disappoint the devices of the crafty; prolong the days and usefulness of those public men, under whose administration the righteous flourish, who cause every man to sit without fear under his vine and fig-tree, and who make our land a quiet habitation. O God! grant peace, order, and plenty in our families, our villages, and towns, and throughout our country. May our rulers have wisdom to direct, and integrity to pursue, such plans as shall best promote our highest good. Wilt thou bless all fountains of useful science; heal and cleanse their waters; dispel the mists of ignorance; arrest the progress of profaneness and vice; make the people of our land humble before thee; peaceable in their civil and social relations; and zealous for the establishment of liberty, order, and truth. O may we never, by our ingratitude, incur that censure—"I have nourished and brought up children, but they have rebelled against me."

And now unto the Governour among the nations, on whom their safety and prosperity ultimately depend; unto the King of kings, and Lord of lords, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, forever and ever. Amen.

Christmas.

SUPREMELY blessed and glorious God! We bring this day our sacrifice of praise for the glad tidings of the gospel; we welcome the first rising of the Sun of righteousness, and would join with the angelic host in ascriptions of praise to thee who sittest on the throne, and to the Redeemer who sitteth at thy right hand. We bless thee, O Lord God of Israel, for sending, in the fulness of time, the Messenger of thy holy covenant; for raising up a horn of salvation in the house of thy servant David, and performing the mercy promised to the Jewish fathers, by the mouth of thy holy prophets. We are excited this day to direct our thoughts to Christ, our Saviour and our Lord; to the corner-stone tried and precious, which thou didst lay in Zion; to that great salvation, which thou didst prepare before the face of all people. Glory be to thee, O God! for the grace and truth manifested in Jesus, the Son of thy love, the Prophet whom thou didst anoint with thy holy spirit without measure.

We bring praise to thine altar, Father all glorious! for divine compassion shown to a

world lying in wickedness. Thou didst send forth thy Son to redeem men from the curse of the law, to proclaim remission of sins, to deliver us from the wrath to come, to abolish death, and bring life and immortality to light. We hear the glad tidings of the Prince of peace, we are instructed by the Son in the Father's will, and to us is made the gracious offer of eternal life. Cheerfully and thankfully would we embrace the merciful invitations and offered blessings of the gospel. Our eyes see, our ears hear the things with which kings and prophets desired an acquaintance. May we both value and improve the inestimable advantages which we have received, and whilst we piously confess the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage, may we practically remember it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for us, if we refuse the great salvation, which began first to be spoken by the Lord. With unfeigned thanksgivings we accept the unspeakable gift of the Saviour, by whom we are inspired with confidence in thy paternal love, and by looking unto whom we learn to consider thee under the glorious and consoling relation of our Father, and are filled with full assurance of the riches of thy mercy. May the joy of truly believing

ever reign in our hearts. O may we with our whole souls obey him, whom we receive as the Way and the Truth and the Life. In his steps we desire diligently to tread; and we beseech thee to grant, through him, that we may finally with him be exalted to heavenly glory and happiness.

Almighty Father! may the peace of Jesus Christ rest upon the whole earth; may his kingdom be established and extended, and rule over all. Wherever Christianity is planted, may it be watered; may the gospel be instrumental to the remotest ends of the earth in spreading knowledge and comfort, righteousness and peace. May the cheering rays of the Sun of righteousness penetrate to the north and the south, the east and west, and all flesh approach, with acceptance, thine holy altar. May the voice of him, who bringeth good tidings, be heard in Jerusalem; and while the cities of Judah behold their God, may the earth be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us in him with all spiritual blessings in heavenly things; who hath granted unto us, to enjoy the day which the patriarchs foresaw, the prophets foretold, and the righteous men of the earth desired to see.

Hosanna to the Son of David, who comes in the name of the Highest to save us! Glory be to God, that there is peace on earth, and good will from heaven to men! Salvation and glory and honour and power unto the Lord our God. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

Morning Prayer for any Individual.

ETERNAL and almighty God! Wherever I turn, I behold proofs and manifestations of thy being, presence, and constant agency. By thy power were the heavens created, and all the host of them by the breath of thy mouth. Thou spakest and it was done; thou commandedst and all things stood fast. The indulgent Benefactor of all the beings which thy hands have formed, thou art every where present, watching over them. Thy mercies unto me are new every morning; they are repeated as fast as the fleeting moments of my life. To all my temporal mercies, thou hast added the privileges of religion, and the animating hope of immortality. I am thankful, O merciful Father, for all the blessings of which I am a partaker, as the creature of thy power, the care of thy providence, and the disciple of thy Son. In review-

ing the goodness which has crowned my days, I am furnished with the strongest motives for praising thy name, and for placing a cheerful, unbounded trust in thy faithfulness and love. Before I could raise my thoughts to thee, before my heart could feel its obligations or my tongue express them, thou wast my never failing friend, my unceasingly bounteous benefactor. Thou hast brought me to riper years; assigned to me my lot in life; conferred personal and social mercies on me, and caused even disappointments to be salutary. Thy favours are more than I can number, and far beyond what I have deserved. O God, strengthen my memory to recollect them; awaken my sense of gratitude; teach me justly to value, thankfully to acknowledge, and wisely to improve them.

But, O Father, amidst thy bounties I have been disobedient. I have sometimes disregarded thy presence, inspection, and authority. I have many besetting sins; for I have permitted my passions to indulge themselves. I lament, in thy presence, that my piety is not more habitual and efficacious; that my benevolence is not more pure and extensive. God of mercy! To thee I come through Jesus Christ for thy grace. O give me sincere repentance; create within me a clean heart, renew a right

spirit within me, and enable me hereafter to walk with steady feet in the way of thy commandments.

Suffer me not, O God, to be a stranger to myself in my intercourse with mankind. Endue me with fortitude in the cause of truth and virtue; but grant that I may always behold with candour the errors and prejudices of others, and bear with a meek and forgiving temper their reproaches and their unkindness. O form me to a disposition which delights in doing good, which seeks occasions to instruct the ignorant, to relieve the wretched, and to advance the interests of peace, truth, and righteousness. In the exercise of such a disposition, teach me to meet, with patience and submission, scenes of disappointment and suffering, persuaded they are the dispensations of thine unerring wisdom and infinite benevolence; and so conduct me through this life, that I may be prepared to leave it with a mind supported by cheerful reflections, and by humble but animating hopes.

Hear my supplications, heavenly Father, for all my brethren of mankind; for the increase of christian knowledge and virtue; for the happiness of my native land; for the relief of the poor; for the support of the afflicted; and for the best interests of my relations and friends.

God of my life! I gratefully acknowledge thy watchful care of me through the past night. Thou hast been my protector whilst I was unconscious of my being, and incapable of guarding against danger. My renewed powers of body and mind I desire to dedicate to thy service. I implore thine aid in the business, and thy direction amidst the events of the day; and humbly confiding in thy fatherly kindness, I ascribe unto thee, through Jesus Christ my Saviour, everlasting praises. Amen.

Evening Prayer for any Individual.

O THOU, who hast borne so long with me, and done so much for me! Merciful God! whom to know is my highest wisdom, and whom to worship is my noblest service! Retiring from every mortal eye, with a mind raised above all mortal cares, I would contemplate thy perfections and providence, and hold sacred intercourse with thee, the Father of all spirits.

Thou reignest, and all is well. Thy government is the government of perfect love, directed by unerring wisdom, and carrying its measures into effect by resistless power. By methods which

my limited faculties are unable to comprehend, thou causest good to arise out of apparent evil, and order to spring from apparent confusion. Although no finite mind can fully comprehend the glories of thy nature, yet every finite being can repose in the thought, that they consist in infinite, eternal, and unchangeable perfection. Though clouds and darkness may be round about thee, yet righteousness and judgment are the habitation of thy throne; and thou wilt, in the end, make all things work together for good to those that love thee and keep thy commandments.

It is my earnest desire, O Father, that my mind may be open to the full influence of these consolatory and animating truths. Deeply impressed by them, may I dismiss every anxious, selfish, and repining thought; may I welcome with a thankful and contented temper the allotments of thy providence, and indulge no wish but to resolve my will into thine, and, by a strict conformity to the eternal laws of truth and righteousness, to become the voluntary instrument of accomplishing thy designs. Grant me, O grant me to be duly thankful for that light which came from heaven by Jesus my Saviour. May I take his yoke upon me, and learn of him who was meek and lowly of heart, that I may find rest to my soul. O may I understand the con-

nexion that the Redeemer has with my salvation. Help me in all respects to walk worthily of the high and holy vocation wherewith he has called me; worthily of the great and important privileges that are conferred upon me; and worthily of the glorious hopes that are set before me.

For every instance in which my past temper and behaviour have been contrary to the rules and spirit of the Gospel, I earnestly supplicate thy pardon and forgiveness. Teach me, I pray thee, in what my true dignity and happiness consist; and let not earthly hopes and fears have dominion over me, in opposition to the suggestions of conscience and the principles of religion.

O may I cherish and exercise proper dispositions towards thee, my Maker. Since thou art my Parent and Friend, may I reverence and love thee above all the objects of my regard. Since thou art my Benefactor, may I be thankful for thy mercies and joyfully confide in thy providence. Since thou art the final Judge of all men, may I study to approve myself in thy sight; and may every thought of my mind, every feeling of my heart, every word of my tongue, and every action of my life, be such as will bear thy inspection and the impartial scrutiny of thy

tribunal. O God! I would commit my personal and social interests to thee, my faithful Creator; and when thy wisdom shall call me hence, may I be able, knowing in whom I have believed, to depart with the composure and the hopes of a real Christian.

Father of all! may the knowledge and spirit of the Gospel be diffused through thy whole family. Bless our land, and all who rule over us. May thy choice favour rest on the ministers of religion, and upon all societies of Christians. May the afflicted, in the beneficial effects of their afflictions, be able to see the hand of a kind Parent. May my friends be thy friends; united, one to another, by mutual kindness, and to thee by holiness and piety.

O thou, who hast brought me to the close of this day in safety, confidently do I commit myself to thy care and protection during the slumbers of this night. Watch over me, O Father! in my defenceless moments, and after quiet and refreshing sleep, raise me up in the morning fitted for the duties and events of another day. And when this succession of days and nights shall be no more, receive me into that state, where I shall serve thee without intermission, and yet without weariness, through a cloudless, a happy, and an eternal day. These

my prayers and requests I would offer, in his name, through whom I have hope in thee, and to God most holy be praise everlasting. Amen.

Sabbath Morning Prayer for any Individual.

Supremely great and infinitely glorious Lord our God! whom archangels adore, and before whom seraphs veil their faces! With the hosts of heaven, who celebrate thy praise, I would join my feeble offering on earth. With a heart truly moved by a sense of thine infinite and unspeakable greatness, I would humble myself before thee, rejoicing that there is a name in which I can approach thee with hope and trust. This day commemorates the resurrection of my Lord and Saviour, and confirms to me thy gracious promises. In the prevailing name of the Redeemer, I come into thy sacred presence; and as the lover of the souls thou hast made, I come to resign all I am, and all I have, into thy hands, imploring thee, to be henceforth my God, my Benefactor, and my Portion.

Thy laws, O God! I receive as my unalterable guide; thy goodness, as the theme of my constant

praise; thy mercy, the object of ready trust; thy universal providence, the subject of my highest joy; the securing of thy favour, my utmost ambition; and the imitation of thy holiness, the end and aim of all my actions. Without thee, O Lord! I am weak and needy. I have nothing, but what I receive from thee; I can do nothing without thy strength, and see nothing without thy light. In thee is my being, my happiness, and my hope.

Father of mercies! I lift my soul to thee in gratitude, for the rich supplies I have received at thy hands. A returning Sabbath, with all its hallowed associations, speaks to me of thy goodness. Every day, and hour, and moment, has laid me under fresh obligations to love, and fear, and serve thee. Thou hast made the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice over my head.—But, to all these proofs of thy care, thou hast added the last demonstration of thy love in giving thine only-begotten Son to live and die, that he might put me in the way of being happy. Adored be thy name, O Father! for this inestimable gift: most humble and hearty thanks do I render thee, for the redemption of the world through our Lord Jesus Christ. I glorify thee, for his birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension; for his gracious interces-

sion at thy right hand, and for all the blessings of christian hope. O grant that such distinguished goodness may have its effect on my heart.

But what can I say to thee, O my Benefactor! whose kindness I have abused; whose mercies I have slighted; whose promises I have rejected, and whose judgments I have contemned? I have offended against knowledge and conviction; against thy most inviting promises, and thy most dreadful threatenings; O thou seest all my sin. But O! my Father, I have hope through Jesus Christ, in whom thou hast promised to receive true penitence instead of purity. In his name I come for mercy, and through him supplicate for that deep and unfeigned sorrow, which shall produce in me every needful change and amendment of life.

And now, O Lord! with many sins to be repented of and forgiven, I come to ask for thy guidance and blessing in future. As I have much to be forgiven, may I always be ready to forgive others. From this Sabbath, may I begin to live for God and heaven. May doing thy will, become henceforth my purpose and joy. O let not sin leave its destructive effects on my mind or heart, whereby the image in which I was created, shall be defaced. O may I effect-

nally shun that precipice, to which sin would lead me, and tread that path of the just, which leads to everlasting life. From the shame and burden of sin, I would turn to thee, who art my glory and comfort. I need thy gracious spirit; be thou the giver and the gift. Enstamp thy divine image on my soul, that I may hereafter be altogether thine. As my hope is in thy mercy, through a Redeemer, O keep me, through him, unto thy heavenly kingdom.—Bless my meditations this day, and prepare me for thy house. Enable me so to acquaint myself with thee, that I may be at peace. O God! make me mindful of the uncertainty of this short life, and the certainty of that which is eternal; and never let me purchase the happiness of this world, at the expense of thy favour. Give me contentment and a quiet spirit; give me devout affections and heavenly hope; give me patience and humility; a firm faith and a prudent zeal. May I always act conformably to the light of my own mind, and the precepts of Christianity.

But, my Father, I pray not for myself alone; I pray for all my brethren of thy family. Pity those who know not thee, and have not heard of thy name. O may thy name be known over the whole earth, and thy saving health to all

nations. May the truth, as it is in Jesus, enlighten every mind, and his promises gladden every heart. May the ministers of religion be zealous and successful heralds of the Gospel; and may the hallowed fire of the altar touch and purify their lips. Bless the pastor of this flock, and may his labours this day, be effectual for the subversion of vice, and the establishment of pure religion. I pray for my friends, and wilt thou bless them: I pray for my enemies, and wilt thou forgive them. Let the sorrowful sighing of the afflicted come up before thee, for thy deliverance; and suffering of every kind be visited by thy mercy.

God of the morning, thou art the Author of the light! Thou hast caused the dayspring to know his place, and with gratitude I see the light of the sun:—I pray, that, like that orb, I may without weariness pursue my heavenly course; and having gone through the duties and trials of earth, may I, at last, exchange them for the joys and glories of heaven. I ask and offer all, in that name which is above every name, through which be ever rendered to thee, immortal praises. Amen.

Sabbath Evening Prayer for any Individual.

O THOU who hearest prayer! with child-like confidence I approach thee as the Being, who delightest in the happiness of thy creatures, and who art nigh to them when they call upon thee. In the name of my Redeemer, I come to ask thine audience and blessing.

How happy have I been this day, in the privilege of meeting my brethren in the house of prayer, and of offering, with them, our united tribute of prayer and praise to thee, our common Benefactor. A day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I bless thy name, that another Sabbath has been afforded me, for increasing my knowledge of thee, and my faith in thy Son. At the close of this holy day I would renew my acknowledgments, and meditate on thy character.

Thou, O God! art infinite in wisdom, to teach; infinite in power, to defend; infinite in holiness, to sanctify; infinite in goodness, to supply the needy; and infinite in mercy, to forgive the penitent. In the calmness of this hour I would feel thy presence, and remember that the darkness hideth not from thee. Thy constant love has

continued to me the being, thou first gavest, and while I live I would magnify thy name.

But, O holy Father! it is with shame I must acknowledge my transgressions. Thou needest not my confession to inform thee of my guilt; for thine eye hath been ever upon my path. Wherewithal shall I come before a holy God? Sighs and tears and promises will not answer the demands of thy law. I have abused the precepts of my christian education, and have indulged many unhallowed passions. Comparing myself with the spotless purity of thy law, as I have heard it this day declared, I am wretched and miserable.

But I remember my Saviour, and I fly to that covenant of grace, which he has sealed with his blood. Through him, God of compassion! be merciful to me, a sinner; and may true contrition wash out all my stains.

And now my urgent prayer is, that as thou hast allowed me to call thee Father, I may henceforth render thee the love and obedience of a child. I came from thee, I would therefore live in thee, so that I may return to thee, at last, in glory. Gird me with strength for thy holy service; and may my knowledge of thee be exhibited to others, by my adding to my faith a noble christian courage in defence of thy truth; by a

constant victory over my corrupt propensities; by a moderate use of all lawful comforts; by a meek and quiet spirit under all my trials, and by entire resignation to thy holy will.—May I show my faith in the Saviour, by having my gratitude kindled at the view of his labours and sufferings for me. May I read his holy Gospel with the spirit in which it was written; may I be instant in prayer, faithful in the use of all christian ordinances, and exemplary in my whole conversation. Especially may I keep holy the appointed Sabbath, and treasure up what I have heard this day, to my everlasting profit. I pray for purity of heart. May I preserve blameless my soul and body, and never gratify any propensity, but for the noble purposes for which thou didst implant it. Knowing how difficult it is to escape from evil tempers and indulgences, O give strength to vanquish them, by resistance at first. Let thy spirit be my perpetual monitor, that I may be secure against every assault.

O my Father! I pray that I may be useful to those around me. Give me industry, temperance, and gentleness. If I cannot assist the needy by my alms, or deliver the oppressed by my power, O let me diligently exercise love in abstaining from all uncharitableness of speech, and

from all frowardness of temper. May I look upon the failings of others with pity; and be as ready to forgive my brethren, as thou art ready, through Jesus Christ, to forgive me.

God of the nations! bless the whole family of man; and may rulers and ruled be instrumental in thy hand, of enlarging the Redeemer's kingdom, and promoting the final reign of truth and righteousness. Strengthen the hand that is extended to present the Gospel to the heathens; and may the happy time soon come, when the fulness of the Gentiles shall be brought in, and all Israel shall be saved; when the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the earth, as the waters fill the channels of the deep.

Wilt thou smile upon the family in which I live; upon the religious society with which I worship, and upon thy servant, our beloved Pastor. May he be eminently successful in his pious labours; and receive, at last, the joyous approval—Well done, good and faithful servant. I pray thee to reward my benefactors, and to forgive my enemies; be thou a present help to all who are in trouble; heal any who are sick; comfort those who mourn; supply the wants of the needy; be the God and husband of the widow, and the Father of the fatherless.

My heavenly Protector! I again depend on

thy watchful care, for another night. Keep me in safety during this season; and when the first rays of morning shall visit my waking eyes, O, then wilt thou lift upon me the light of thy countenance. I offer my prayer to thy sacred majesty, in the name of my Saviour and Redeemer, through whom, to thee, be all honour and glory forever. Amen.

Morning Prayer for a Communicant;

(Before the celebration of the Lord's Supper.)

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! I adore thine unspeakable goodness in raising up this Deliverer from sin and death, for a benighted and guilty world. I praise thee for the spiritual and heavenly blessings which thou hast bestowed on me through his mediation, crucifixion, and resurrection. What gracious instruction flowed from his tongue! What spotless purity marked his life! What love and zeal filled his heart! With what patience and kindness did he seek those that were lost! What astonishing miracles attested his mission! What benevolence was exhibited in his painful

death on the cross! How triumphantly did he conquer the grave and ascend to thy throne in heaven! Gracious God, how complete is his redemption, how attracting and transporting the thought of his compassion and victory! What light, what comfort, what encouragement, what hope can I need, which the Gospel of Christ does not abundantly supply?

O thou who seest in secret, I confess I am unworthy of my christian privileges, and that I have not adorned my profession, as I might, by a holy walk and conversation. In condemning myself, I feel I must be condemned by thee. Spare me, O Father, through him that died for me. Through thine infinite goodness, in Jesus Christ, remember not my sins; but give me that true repentance which is unto life.

To day thou invitest me to the memorial of my Saviour's dying love. May I keep this christian passover with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. May I regard the Supper as a means, not as an end. O may I hear the invitation of Jesus, and go to his table with lively faith and pure gratitude. May I appear there in the wedding garments that are required. Eating the bread and drinking the cup, as emblems of his body and blood, may I embrace the

covenant of mercy, and find redemption through him. O may the remembrance of his love, his sufferings, his death, and his glory, comfort, support, and strengthen me, in life and death. Heavenly Father, be thou with thy servant who ministers in the sanctuary; with my fellow-communicants; with all my christian brethren. Dispose all who encircle thine altar, to feel and act as friends, partakers of the same grace, and heirs of the same blissful inheritance, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Evening Prayer for a Communicant;

(After the celebration of the Lord's Supper.)

FATHER of mercies, and God of love! Thou hast caused thy goodness to pass before me this day. Follow with thy blessing what I have been permitted and enabled to perform in obedience to the injunction of thy Son. If my affections have gone forth toward thee in warm devotion; and if the death and sufferings of Jesus have produced proper reflections and awakened proper purposes, to thee be the praise. I thank thee that I have this day sat down with my

brethren at the table of the Lord, and remembered my absent Saviour in the simple rite in which he desired to be remembered. I have received the cup of blessing, given me by the hand of mercy. I have renewed my vows, acknowledging thee to be my God, and Jesus to be my Saviour. O preserve me from being unfaithful by not holding fast a good conscience. Help me to follow my Saviour wheresoever he would lead me; to abide in him as the true vine; and to stand fast in the liberty, wherewith he makes his disciples free. Enable me at all times to remember his new command, that we should love one another, even as he loved us. O raise my affections from earth to heaven, and assist me to be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. May I regard the world, as an object that I am soon to give up forever; and may I therefore set my affections on things eternal.

I thank thee for the privilege I have this day enjoyed. May I come with boldness to thy throne of grace in my Saviour's name, and may his peace keep my heart in every changing scene. O may I be his true disciple; triumphing in this; that my Lord, who was once dead, lives and reigns forever, and has gone to prepare mansions for those who love him.

Once more, O thou Parent of all, I implore thy blessing upon thy church universal, and upon the whole human family. Comfort every sorrowful soul. Bring into the way of truth all such as have erred and are deceived. Bring the wickedness of the wicked to an end. May truth, and righteousness, and peace, gladden the whole earth. Let thy grace be multiplied upon the religious society of which I am a member, and upon the pastor of the flock. Let all with whom I am connected, and who are dear to me, be enrolled in the book of life. Hear me, O Father, through him, whose doctrine was that bread which came down from heaven; guide me safely through my earthly pilgrimage, and at last receive me to thyself in glory. Amen.

Prayer after entering a Church.

O THOU, whom we have assembled to worship! Infinite God! may I remember this is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. Assist me, O Lord, and accept my services. May I worship thee in spirit and in truth. Wilt thou aid him who is to lead in our

devotions; and dispose my heart to seriousness, attention, and reverence. Grant that I may improve this opportunity to the honour of thy holy name, and the benefit of my soul, through Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

Prayer at Church after the Services are ended.

BLESSED be thy name, O Lord, for this opportunity of attending thee, in thy house and service. Grant that I, and all who profess thy name, may be doers of thy word, and not hearers only. Pardon our wanderings and imperfections; and accept us in our services, through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for an Aged Person.

O THOU great Author and Supporter of life! Thou hast been the refuge of thy children in every age! To thee I raise my heart with thanksgiving and supplication. Thou hast

maintained my frail existence, through many years, and crowned its successive periods with thy mercies. Where should I begin, or where should I cease, if I would enumerate the favours which thy hand has bestowed on me! With what incessant kindness hast thou supplied the wants both of my soul and body, opened to me many sources of satisfaction, shielded me from dangers and calamities, consoled and sustained me under trials and distresses, and conducted my feet in the path of peace! What gratitude do I owe to thee, especially for the light and assistance of thy holy Gospel; for its precious promises and animating hopes, and for the many opportunities and means of improvement which I have enjoyed!—Hitherto thou hast led and supported me; and my only trust is in thy sure and never failing mercy.

Heavenly Father! I confess to thee my many errors and transgressions, with sorrow and repentance. Of thine infinite goodness forgive whatever I have thought or said or done amiss in the whole course of my pilgrimage. Let my hoary head be found in the way of righteousness. Whatever I may have neglected, whatever remains to be done, assist me to perforn immediately, and to the best of my ability. If I have injured any, enable me to discover it, that I

may make due reparation, and be at peace with all men, before I go hence. O Lord! sanctify my mind, correct my passions, and preserve me from every sin to which I am exposed. Save me from a selfish, censorious, severe, impatient, and dissatisfied temper. Teach me to be thankful to those who contribute to my ease and comfort, to rejoice in the happiness of all around me, and with a friendly spirit to instruct and admonish the rising generation. Help me especially to render the religion of thy Son amiable and venerable in their estimation, by setting them an example of cheerful piety, and by entertaining a holy confidence in thy providence and grace.

God of compassion! my strength is now often labour and sorrow, and I shall soon go down to the grave. Forsake me not, I beseech thee; cast me not off in the time of my old age. Let my affections be fixed upon the things which are above; let the prospect of heaven support me in every hour of suffering; and when my heart and flesh fail, be thou the strength of my heart, and my portion forever, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for a Person in Middle Life.

FATHER of lights, and Source of being, I bless thee for conscious existence; for the rank and situation allotted me among the works of thine hands; for my intellectual and active powers, and for all my faculties of enjoyment, with that variety of objects around me adapted to their gratification. I bless thee, the Father of knowledge, for all the assistance in the pursuit of science and virtue, which thou hast afforded me, through the channel of friends, teachers, books, or conversation. Most of all, I bless thee, for the light, consolation, and hope, which thou hast put it into my power to obtain, by the careful study of the holy Scriptures; by serious meditation on their important doctrines and discoveries, and by an impartial and diligent use of them in the regulation of my faith, temper, and practice. O may I show forth my gratitude for these favours by devoting my powers to thy service.

Gracious God! Thou hast brought me to this period of life, when my strength is upon me, and when I am able to make the greatest exertions. O teach me the duties which this season requires. Forbid, great God, that I should misapply or

trifle with any portion of that precious time, for the use of which I am accountable at thy bar. May I regard my time and all my opportunities, as talents which thou hast lent me. May I remember that the obligation and the ability to do good are of equal extent; and that thou hast made it my duty to do all that I can do.

God of wisdom, enlighten my understanding to discern the great objects of existence.—O may I never weakly imagine, that thou hast placed me so high in the scale of being, only to enjoy the fleeting gratifications of the body. May I seek a happiness more exalted and durable, more pure and refined; a happiness, flowing from obedient appetites, well regulated affections, increasing knowledge, the exercise of piety and benevolence, and the well grounded hope of thine approbation and favour.—While my thoughts are engaged in the things of earth, may I reserve my affections for what is pure, ennobling, and heavenly.

Pardon, O Father, the many sins I have already committed. I have indulged some passions which are offensive in thy sight. I have wasted many hours, and have not always placed thee before me. Pardon, through the Saviour, these violations of thy law; and O! enable me hereafter to live wisely. May I be

more industrious, thoughtful, and decided; have a more tender regard to those who depend on me for aid, support, or counsel; have more philanthropy, more piety, more true devotion, and more religious zeal. O keep me from idle amusements, and vicious company. Arm my soul against the thousand temptations which beset me, and whenever I act, may I do good.

I now give up myself, O God, to thee. I ask thy power to strengthen my weakness; thy wisdom to direct my ignorance; thy bounty to supply my wants, and thy mercy to pardon my numerous sins. Go with me through a world of danger. May I perform my part well, and at the close of life have the testimony of my conscience, that in simplicity and in godly sincerity, not by fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, I have had my conversation in the world. Hear me, holy Father, through my Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

Prayer for a Person in Active Business.

RIGHTEOUS and merciful art thou, O Lord, in the ordination, that by the sweat of our brow we should eat bread. Thou hast created

all beings, that they might enjoy their existence; and thy wisdom is manifest in every provision for their welfare. Thou lookest upon the earth, and fillest it with blessings for them.

Thou art calling all to activity and labour, that they may be useful to each other, and be preserved from the evils of idleness and vice. It was the Saviour's meat and drink to do thy will, and to finish his appointed work. Merciful God! let me not esteem it a burden, that I am called to activity and solicitude. I ask thy divine grace to give me faithfulness and alacrity in the duties of my employment. As I am fixed in business, not for my own private interest alone, but for the good of society, O! implant and increase within me a principle of truth and good will towards all men, that I may always abhor the thought of enriching myself, by the gains of secret fraud or base ambition. Keep in me a conscientious regard to that great principle of doing to others, as I would they should do to me. May I never forget that the wages of unrighteousness bring down thy quick displeasure, and that the prosperity of the wicked shall destroy them. Amidst undue eagerness for wealth, wilt thou sound in my ears that momentous question, —What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Save me

from the snares of covetousness, and may I remember, that the day is approaching in which earthly riches cannot profit me. O grant, that amidst all my pursuits, I may preserve a supreme regard to the one thing, which is most needful; and secure that better part which can never be taken away. To this end, O God! I ask the guidance of thy gracious spirit; and while my thoughts are steadily fixed on earthly objects, may I be careful to reserve my affections for what is pure and heavenly. Knowing the tendency of the world to extinguish all sense of spiritual blessings, may I maintain such constant suspicion of these earth-born passions, as shall keep me from every inordinate pursuit of temporal good. May the law of truth be written on my heart, so that iniquity shall never be found in my mouth.

If my means increase, grant me a liberal hand to the poor and needy; and may I use what thou impartest, with temperance, gratitude, and charity. May I do much to promote good learning and pure religion; and by benefiting society may I prove that thou hast not blessed me in vain.

Giver of every good! I ask thy smiles upon my labours and pursuits. May I be prospered in all my lawful undertakings; and by fidelity and prudence, by industry and benevolence,

may I do honour to the religion I profess, and, at last, receive those higher rewards, which earth cannot bestow. In the name of him, who died to redeem us from the power of this evil world, I offer this my prayer, ascribing to thee, the Disposer of my condition, praise everlasting. Amen.

Prayer for a Parent.

ALMIGHTY God, Creator of men! from thee come our choicest gifts. Thou hast bestowed on me children, and inspired my heart with ardent affection for them. Thou hast committed them to my care, and commanded me to educate them as Christians, as intelligent and immortal beings. O make me fully sensible, I entreat thee, of the solemnity and importance of this charge; and give me thy gracious assistance, that I may train up my offspring in the way in which they should go. Enable me to entertain abiding convictions of the value of good instructions, and the necessity of early religious impressions. Enlighten and direct me in the choice of proper means for cultivating pious and virtuous principles in their tender

minds. Make me constant and faithful in sowing in their hearts the incorruptible seed of divine truth, that they may love religion early, and early walk with God. Increase my solicitude to set before them the pattern of a holy and good life; and never suffer me to forget, that what I say and do cannot fail to influence the formation of their temper and character. O preserve me from the extremes of impatience and undue severity, and of excessive indulgence and misguided fondness. Direct me to the most rational and salutary expressions of my love to them; and help me to adapt my conduct to their several dispositions. And while I study to bring them forward on the stage of action, with those advantages which are suitable to their condition, let me always remember, that the care of the soul is the one thing needful, and let it be my highest concern to prepare them for eternity and heaven.

Gracious God! save me, I pray thee, from the most grievous calamity which parents can feel; that of beholding their children vicious and miserable. O protect and bless those for whom my heart beats with the tenderest anxiety; and let them never be led astray by wicked customs and examples.

Whatever thou mayest deny me, O grant that I may see them walking in the truth, adorned with innocence, piety, and virtue. Vouchsafe to forgive any errors in my conduct towards them, and to supply all my deficiencies. When I shall be removed hence, let me die with the consciousness that I have not wilfully neglected my duty to them. And in the great day of resurrection and judgment, grant that we may be found together before thy throne, and that I may be enabled to say—Here am I, O Lord, and the children which thou hast given me.

I offer my requests in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Morning Prayer for a Child.

Almighty God, Maker of heaven and earth! my Creator, Preserver and Benefactor. Early will I seek and praise and love thee. In the hours of sleep, when I could not defend myself, thou hast defended me. Thou hast brought me to this morning in health, and I will now show forth thy praise. I thank thee for all the powers of my body, and for all the faculties of my mind.

My present blessings are more than I can number, and more than I have deserved. I have sinned against thee; for I have left undone many things which I ought to have done, and have done many things that I ought not to have done. As thou hast promised to forgive me through Jesus Christ, if I am heartily sorry, I devoutly pray thee to look in mercy on my sins, and enable me to do better in future. O make me sensible of the importance of forming right habits on my entrance into life; and enable me to keep a constant guard over my thoughts, my feelings, my words, and my actions. May I remember that thine eye is always directly upon me. Help me to gain good learning; so that when the aged, the wise, and the virtuous leave the world, I may be prepared to fill their places, and to be useful in society. May I remember how much the happiness of my friends depends on my good conduct, and may I be all that my parents and instructers wish me. O may I live as thy obedient child, and be a christian in spirit and in deed. O God! I look to thee for guidance and assistance this day and every day of my future life, and when I die, may I be received into thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Evening Prayer for a Child.

O Lord, my heavenly Father! I thank thee that thou hast added another day to my life; and hast not suffered any evil to befall me. I praise thy name for the food which thou givest me, and the raiment with which I am clothed; for all the kindness of my parents and friends to me. Thy mercies, O God, are as many as the moments of my life. Especially I thank thee, that thou hast taught me, through Jesus Christ, what I ought to know and do, in order to be useful here, and happy hereafter. Bless my parents, my relations, my teachers and friends, and all my fellow men. O my Father! guide my inexperienced feet. As I grow in years may I grow in wisdom and in goodness. May I be industrious, so that I may be useful; and virtuous, so that I may be happy. May I avoid bad company; and seek continually to please thee. May I remember that thou art with me wherever I am, and that thou seest me in all I do. I would now remember what I have done this day; and if I have said or done any thing, contrary to thy holy will, I pray thee to forgive me. I desire to give up myself to thee for this night, and wilt thou defend me from

every harm, and may I awake in the morning, prepared to serve thee better than I have ever served thee before. Hear me, O God, in these my prayers, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Seaman's Prayer.

O THOU, who stillest the raging of the sea, and the noise of its waves! All powerful God! I lift up mine eyes to thee, from whom cometh my help! Thou boldest the winds, and at thy command they go forth. Thou art God of the sea. Preserve and support me, I beseech thee, during my exposure on the deep. While I am thus dependant on thee, do thou be with me for my safety. Let me not utter thy name, but with the greatest reverence; nor forget, that to thee I owe my security, and that thou holdest my soul in life. Fortify me in the seasons of peril; not by blind courage, but by an unbounded confidence in thy care and goodness. May it please thee to give success to my undertakings; to conduct me safely to my desired haven, and return me to my family and friends with gratitude for thy sustaining providence. Enable me, O Father, to

have a strong faith in him, who rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. May I ever say to my tempestuous passions—Peace, be still—and look forward toward the haven of eternal rest. And when the sea shall give up its dead, and each one be called to judgment, then may I find my name written in the book of life, through Jesus Christ, my Redeemer. Amen.

For a Sick Person.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God! who hatest nothing that thou hast made! and who hast not thought even a crown of everlasting life too much to promise to thy children! I desire humbly to own and to reverence thy hand in my present sickness. May my bodily suffering make my heart better, and lead me more justly to value health and strength, and to employ them to nobler purposes than I have done, if this sickness shall not be unto death. May I take that view of life from my sick bed, which can be taken from no other place. With submission to thy will, I pray for the removal of my disorder, and for the perfect restoration of my

health. Endue me with resignation, patience, and meekness, under the pains of disease and the irksomeness of confinement. Above all, prepare me for death. Blot out my numerous transgressions through thine infinite mercy, in Jesus Christ. O dispose me to do what is necessary for the great exchange of worlds. Thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve thy children, and I believe thou intendest good to me by this fatherly correction. O may I yet live to perform my duties more acceptably. May no increase of pain produce repining, or draw from me any inconsiderate prayer. Into thy hands I commend myself, desiring to be numbered with those who love thee, and to find by experience all things, and this sickness, especially, working my spiritual good. Help me to finish, while I live, the work thou hast given me to do. If I have injured any, I would be truly penitent, and when I die, may I be at peace with all men. O may I at this time, whatever the issue of this sickness may be, fix my heart steadfastly upon thee, and have a lively faith in that Saviour, who led the way through the grave to the immortality that is beyond it. Through the wilderness of this world, let me ever bless thee for the manna and the rock. On the brink of Jordan let thy promises be precious. In the last

hour let my faith be strong, and grant me to ascend into thy blissful presence in the chariot of love and praise. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! Be my God in life, my hope in death, and my everlasting portion, through Jesus my Saviour. Amen.

After Recovery from severe Sickness.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases, who redeemeth thy life from destruction, and who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercy. I praise thee, great God, that, although thou hast chastened me, thou hast not given me over unto death. I praise thee that thy powerful arm has arrested the progress of the destroyer, and helped me out of all my troubles. I thank thee for every comfort and alleviation of pain, with which thou hast been pleased to furnish me, and especially for the love of my friends, and the promises of thy Gospel. I acknowledge thine inexpressible

goodness in restoring me from the brink of the grave and from the anguish of suffering, to endeared connexions, to enlivened hopes, to new opportunities, and to increased motives for cultivating christian affections, for abounding in good works, and for laying up treasures in heaven.

O Father! let not these opportunities be neglected by me, but be wisely improved to thy glory.

I have experienced thy power and compassion. May I ever live in the exercise of a grateful confidence in both, and be duly sensible of my total dependence on thy providence and government. I have been brought near to the realities of the world to come; brought to feel the worth of thy favour, and the value of a conscience void of offence. Almighty God! let the convictions I have had of them never be extinguished in my heart. Enable me at all times to entertain that humble contrition for my sins, and that penitential sense of my need of thy mercy, which the nearness of death was instrumental in producing. Help me to appreciate, as I ought, eternal things, and to do all that thou requirest, in order that I may secure thine approbation and friendship. May the resolutions I formed, when sick, now be effectual.

Thou hast enabled me to realize the vanity and uncertainty of the world. Preserve me from attaching too much importance to its pleasures, honours, or possessions; and assist me constantly to remember how rapidly it is passing away.

Thou hast taught me by sickness the worth of friendship; and the offices of kindness, which have been performed for me, have, with thy blessing, cheered, consoled, and supported me. My God! never let me be insensible of the love of those, whose hearts thou hast warmed with good will towards me. Make me ready to return their benevolence on every occasion. Let me be softened with humanity towards all that suffer; and let me never behold a sick bed, without sympathy and charity.

It was thy Gospel, O thou God of all consolation in Jesus Christ, from which my hope was derived, when the shadows of death appeared to encompass me. The assurances which it contains of thy forbearance and mercy, and of eternal life through thy Son, were the only support of my spirit. O give me grace to cling with faster hold than ever, to this Rock of salvation, to abide in the love of Jesus, to follow him undismayed, and constantly to hope through him for redemption and celestial happiness.

Preserver of my being! thou hast now shown me how frail I am; hast given me a striking proof of the precariousness of life; and I know, that ere long I shall bid farewell to all whom I now behold. O may I be prepared for that sickness, from which I shall not recover. May I walk by faith and not by sight. May I be concerned to be always ready, and to be found in that frame of mind, which will enable me to welcome death as the messenger of peace.

Holy Father! hear my prayers, I beseech thee; forgive my sins, and make me thine for evermore, through him who was made perfect by suffering. Amen.

After the Death of a Parent.

O THOU, in whose sight we all are children! Thou livest for ever and ever! But unto us thou hast said, Dust ye are, and unto dust ye shall return. Eternal God, I would adore thee in all thy doings. Even when thou causest trouble and heaviness to fall upon me, it is that I may learn righteousness from thy judgments, and receive profit from thy correction. Thou

art now calling me to drink very deeply of the cup of sorrow. The fond parent thou gavest me for my guidance, my instruction, my support and comfort, thou hast now taken away, and left me without the protection I have always felt. The places which once knew, are to know my parent no longer. The voice which spoke wisdom to my early days, and guided my inexperienced feet, I am to hear no more. O God most holy! Believing thou knowest when it is best to call thy children to thyself, I would exercise an entire submission. Sanctify to me this severe affliction; and enable me to remember the sweet words of counsel which my parent gave me. O may I follow every good example which was placed before me; and often call to mind the unwearied exertions which were made to promote my welfare. O God when I have completed my days on earth, I devoutly pray to be united with this parent in thy heavenly family. Hear me in my affliction, and comfort me through Jesus Christ. Amen.

After the Death of a Husband or Wife.

O THOU, whose ways are to us inscrutable! Great, eternal God! Thou givest and thou takest away. Thou liftest up and thou castest down. Thou hast taken from me the chosen partner of my life; the object of my most affectionate regards; my support and comfort under the labours and anxieties of this mortal state. O God, by what painful experience art thou teaching me the instability of all earthly enjoyments! But I would not murmur at thy dealings, believing that thy chastisements are chastisements of love; and that by all these things, thou art intending to do me good. God forbid, that my present grief should render me unmindful of thy past goodness. I desire to repose myself under the care of thy providence, assured that I cannot be destitute, while thou art my helper; or miserable, having thee for my portion. Whatever outward blessings thou shalt see fit to deny me, O deny me not the comfort of thy love. Provide me with friends to assist me in my deserted condition; and give me grace to behave with propriety in all my relations. O God, wilt thou be my friend, my father, my life, my health, my rest, and my joy. Under thy chastisements,

I desire to submit to thy directions; to refer to thee my actions, and to resign into thine hands all my interests in time and eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

After the Death of a Brother or Sister.

SOVEREIGN Disposer of all events! I come into thy presence with the voice of grief; I come to thee as my Father, and wilt thou hear me as thy child. Thou hast taken one from me, in whom I was comforted, who shared with me the joys of early life, and who experienced with me the kindness of affectionate parents. But, O God, I desire to bow in humble resignation to thine appointment, and read the solemn lesson thou wouldst teach me. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Give me that composure of spirit, which shall enable me to receive the consolations of religion: for I well know how dark soever this night of affliction seems, if thou sayest,—Let there be light, there shall be light. Gracious Monitor, prepare me to follow this departed friend of my bosom. O may I be

made better by thy dealings with me. Soothe my sorrows by the comforting words of Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life. O, like him, may I bear what thy wisdom shall see fit to ordain; and in all my afflictions, howeversevere, may I be able to say, Not my will, O God, but thine be done. Now unto thee, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who died that we might live, and who wept, that we might rejoice, be glory forever. Amen.

After the Death of a Child.

O THOU, who hast appointed unto all once to die, and who alone knowest what is really best for me! I fly to thee, beseeching thee to sanctify unto me the bereavement, which fills my heart with grief. Thou hast united me to the objects of my innocent affection, by the tenderest ties; and I bless thee that thou wast pleased to give me my departed child, and to bestow on me the satisfactions and joys, which a parent feels. Thou hast by the arrow of death, taken away from me this beloved being; and I would bow with resignation to thy sovereign appointment.

I commit its body to the grave, and its soul to thy infinite mercy: and I rejoice and thank thee that our Lord Jesus Christ has declared, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Compassionate Father! console my sorrows, I pray thee; and prevent me from despising thy chastenings, or fainting when rebuked of thee. Teach me more perfectly to do and suffer thy will, and to draw instruction, from the adversities I experience. May I willingly give up my child from my arms below, into the arms of a better Parent above. Affect me with just convictions of the vanity of human life, and the uncertainty of earthly comforts. Dispose me to work out my own salvation with fear and trembling, and to give the most serious attention to the religious instruction and improvement of those whom thou hast preserved to me. Instead of attempting fully to explain the unsearchable mysteries of thy government, may my heart rest assured, that all things shall work together for good to them that love thee; and may I steadily look forward to the resurrection of the just, and the reunion of those who die in the Lord, through our exalted Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

Prayer by Sir W. Jones.

ETERNAL, incomprehensible Mind, who, by thy boundless power, before time began, createdst innumerable worlds for thy glory and innumerable orders of beings for their happiness; which thine infinite goodness prompted thee to desire, and thy infinite wisdom enabled thee to know! We thy creatures vanish into nothing, before thy supreme Majesty; we hourly feel our weakness; we daily bewail our vices; we continually acknowledge our folly. Thee only we adore with awful veneration; thee we thank with the most fervent zeal; thee we praise with astonishment and rapture; to thy power we humbly submit; of thy goodness we devoutly implore protection; on thy wisdom we firmly and cheerfully rely. We do but open our eyes, and instantly we perceive thy divine existence; we do but exert our reason, and in a moment we discover thy divine attributes; but our eyes could not behold thy splendour, nor could our minds comprehend thy divine essence; we see thee only through thy stupendous and all-perfect works; we know thee only by that ray of sacred light, which it has pleased thee to reveal through Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, if creatures too ignorant to con-

ceive, and too depraved to pursue the means of their own happiness, may, without presumption, express their wants to their Creator, let us humbly supplicate thee to remove from us that evil, which thou hast permitted for a time to exist, that the ultimate good of all may be complete; and to secure us from that vice, which thou sufferest to spread snares around us, that the triumph of virtue may be more conspicuous. Irradiate our minds with all useful truth; instil into our hearts a spirit of general benevolence; give understanding to the foolish; meekness to the proud; temperance to the dissolute; fortitude to the feeble-hearted; hope to the desponding; faith to the unbelieving; diligence to the slothful; patience to those who are in pain, and thy celestial aid to those who are in danger:—comfort the afflicted; relieve the distressed; supply the hungry with salutary food; and the thirsty with a plenteous stream. Impute not our doubts to indifference, nor our slowness of belief to hardness of heart; but be indulgent to our imperfect nature; and supply our imperfections by thy heavenly favour. Suffer not, we anxiously pray, suffer not oppression to prevail over innocence, nor the might of the avenger over the weakness of the just. Whenever we address thee in our retirement from the vanities of the world, if our

prayers are foolish, pity us; if presumptuous, pardon us; if acceptable to thee, grant them, all-powerful God, grant them; and, as with our living voice, and with our dying lips, we will express our submission to thy decrees, adore thy providence, and bless thy dispensations, so in all future states, to which we reverently hope thy goodness will raise us, grant that we may continue praising, admiring, venerating, worshipping thee more and more, through worlds without number and ages without end. Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

FORMS OF SERVICE FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP.

MORNING SERVICE.

Introductory Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven, thy children and thy creatures would come to express to thee the language of their common wants, and their common weakness. While we are assembled to think of our eternal concerns, we would remember that we are surrounded, supported, and inspected by thee. We desire now, O Lord, to learn thy will; to give thee the praise and homage that are thy due; to confess before thee our manifold transgressions; to implore thy pardoning mercy through Jesus Christ, and to gain some new strength for our Christian course. In these our endeavours, we ask thy divine assistance. And as we know not whether we shall spend another sabbath on earth, may we this day ask ourselves, if we are prepared to meet our God. We come as the disciples of Jesus Christ, to whose name be honour in the church forever. Amen.

Prayer before Sermon.

Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion, and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

Almighty and most merciful Father; thou art our God, early would we seek thee; our unwearied Benefactor, and we would bless thee; our fathers' God, and we will exalt thee. We would come this morning to acknowledge thee, the only proper object of religious worship. We would come as the disciples of thy Son to ask for mercy, because we are sinners; to implore the influence of thy Spirit, because we are weak; and to entreat for thine assistance, because on thee we continually depend. O may we be duly impressed with the solemn duties of prayer. May we remember thine eye is upon us and never turned away. O thou who searchest the heart, we desire to worship thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. We thank thee for the light of another of thy holy sabbaths. Thy mercies, O Lord, are new upon us every morning, and fresh every evening. And now that our gratitude may be awakened, we would remember the favours which have crowned our days. Ever since thou gavest us life, we have been pensioners on thy bounty. Thou hast been bountiful to us beyond our necessities, and merciful beyond our hopes. Each day has come to us, bearing thine unremitted favours. Thy goodness, O Father, has been greater toward us, than we can express. Thou hast permitted

nature, year after year, to furnish out its treasures, for our support; and thy hand hath been scattering liberally about us, the varied blessings of life. We rejoice and praise thee, that in these second causes, which we see operating around us, we are led to thee, the first Great Cause of all; that from these unnumbered streams we are led to the exhaustless Fountain of being and beneficence. O may we study thee in thy works, and see how much we have to thank thee for; and may the multitude of blessings, which surround us, be motives that shall bind us in obedience to thy commands. We would admire and adore that wisdom which is so evidently displayed in the structure of our bodies. But glory be to thy name, that in each of these bodies thou hast placed the bright image of thyself; a rational, immortal principle. How good wast thou, O God, to give us immortality; to create us in the image of thine own eternity! O make us duly grateful to thee for the gift of mind; for that reason which controls our passions and regulates our propensities; and for those moral powers, which determine our duties, nourish our good affections, and prepare us for happiness by making us holy. Grant, O God, that we may use all our powers as thou designedst they should be used; in searching after truth, and in the cultiva-

tion of the affections of love to thee and love to our fellow men. But while we adore thy wisdom as displayed in these thy works, our souls would kindle into praise for the crowning gift of Christianity. Never can we too much thank thee, for the gift of a Saviour. Glory be to thy name, O Father, that in the records of Christianity, which have come down to us, we also are permitted to hear the same glad tidings that angels announced; that there is now peace on earth and good will towards man. In an especial manner we thank thee, that by him, life and immortality are brought to light; that now we are assured we shall not rest forever in the grave, but that beyond the darkness of the tomb, there shall break forth a bright and a glorious morning of the resurrection, when all who are in their graves shall come forth to appear before God. God of mercy and of grace, prepare us all for that day.

But while we remember thy various goodness, it becometh us to remember with deep humility and sincere contrition, how little we have deserved thy many favours. Thou hast been doing much for us, but we have been doing little for ourselves. We have offended against thy holy laws. Thou knowest how often we have sinned. But we have hope in thy grace, through Jesus

Christ. Through him, the appointed way, we come for mercy. Through him we would plead, and through him would we throw ourselves on thine infinite grace. God be merciful to us, sinners! And now, Holy Father, our desires are before thee, that in future we may do better. May we from this day determine to watch the hidden springs of action, and see where we are not pure; and to break off our sins by repentance and our iniquities by turning unto thee; and since we are invited to immortality, may we, hereafter, have our conversation in heaven, and every day be preparing to join the great assembly of the just made perfect, in the regions of light, purity, and joy. Enable us, therefore, we devoutly pray thee, to imitate our Saviour. May we, as far as we are able, in the great duties of religion, feel as he felt, think as he thought, and do as he did. May Christ be formed in us the hope of glory. We desire to love thee more, and to serve thee better; to love our Saviour more, and to serve him better; to love each other more, and to serve each other better; and to be more ready to do to others, as we wish others should do to us. O God, may we be Christians in spirit and in deed. Give us, therefore, we entreat thee, more spiritual light and knowledge; more love of sacred things; more faith

and hope; more strength against temptation and sin; more purity and heavenly-mindedness; more indifference to the fleeting objects of earth, and more genuine piety. O may we put on Christ Jesus, and become completely furnished unto every good work.

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Our Father who art in heaven, we look to thee, who givest strength to the weak, and power to the helpless, for aid in the solemn services of thy house. Wilt thou be very near us in mercy; direct our thoughts, engage our hearts, elevate our affections, and forgive us our sins; and to thee shall be the praise forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Sermon.

ALMIGHTY God, the Fountain of wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking; we beseech thee to have compassion upon our infirmities; and those things, which, for our unworthiness, we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give us, as disciples of thy Son. Through him we pray God to grant, that the words we have now heard with our outward ears, may, through thy grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts,

that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living; to the honour and praise of thy holy name. Forgive what thou hast seen amiss in us, during our waiting upon thee in thy house. We would now commit ourselves to thy care, ascribing to thee, the kingdom, power, and glory forever. Amen.

Benediction.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

EVENING SERVICE.

Introductory Prayer.

Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings, by thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer before Sermon.

High and holy Lord our God! As children before a Parent, as subjects before a Sovereign, as sinners before a Being of infinite purity, we bow before thee in prayer. In the spirit of faith, in the spirit of love, gratitude, and hope, we

desire to make known our requests to our Father in heaven. O may we be duly impressed with knowing that thine eye is this moment upon us. With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, we would again enter thy courts, O thou Most High, and give thee glory, that we are permitted to see the light of another of thy holy days. By these successive returns of duty, thou art reminding us of how much we owe to him who made us, and to him who hath redeemed us. We are united to thee, O Father, by many and tender ties, for thou art our Creator, Preserver, and unwearied Benefactor. We would acknowledge thee in all thou hast enabled us to enjoy; and we would acknowledge thee in all thou hast brought us to suffer. Thou in wisdom gavest us life, and in kindness dost sustain us. All our springs are in thee. God of mercy and of grace, thy goodness is as wide as thy providence, and thy lovingkindness is from age to age. May true gratitude be awakened in our souls.

We rejoice, O God, and thank thee for the high rank we have in the scale of being. We rejoice, in gratitude to thee, for the gift of rational and moral faculties; yet, above all, we magnify and bless thy holy name, for the inestimable gift of a Saviour, for the means of grace, and the hope of glory. Praise be to God in the highest, for the

gift of his Son, who lived, teaching us how to live; and died, opening beyond the grave the glories of immortality. For these, and for many unfelt blessings, Father, we thank thee.

But while we call to mind thy rich mercies to us, we would with the deepest humiliation and penitence, confess we have been regardless of thy multiplying favours. We have disregarded thine authority, and forgotten our obligations. We lament the coldness of our devotions; the insensibility of our hearts; the frequency of our sins. But, O Lord, we come through him, who died that we might live, and would devoutly pray thee to blot out our transgressions, and hereafter to receive us graciously, and love us freely. Lead us to that repentance which the Gospel requires.

And now, O God, our desires are before thee, that in future we may understand our religion and our duties more thoroughly. O may we be more pure and holy, more wise and devout; more benevolent to our fellow men; more grateful and obedient to thee. May we have the new heart and new life that Christ requires. Grant us, therefore, to have a more strong, lively, and rational faith in our glorified Redeemer; a faith, that shall have an efficacy and a permanence. O may it act in us, as a practical persuasion of christian truth, and a strong encouragement to a

holy life. Renew us, O God, in the temper of our minds, so that we may be able to put on Christ Jesus; to break down the power of our earth-born passions, and to walk as children of the light. Under a firm conviction of thine overruling Providence, may we live as seeing thee, who art invisible, and as acting in the presence of God; and may we be so pure in heart, that thy blessing and favour shall go with us through life; and thus by faith in him who came to enlighten and save the world, may we receive the pardon of our sins; and through his resurrection, be raised at last to enjoy in heaven an eternity of increasing blessedness and glory.

O thou, who art the Father of all the families on earth; hear our earnest supplications, that the religion of thy Son may be extended over every region, and rule in every heart. May the solitary place be made glad, and the desert rejoice and blossom, and the earth be filled with the glory of the Lord. Be, in much mercy, with the ministers of the Gospel, and may they preach Jesus Christ, and him crucified, so as to make men wise to salvation.

And wilt thou, who art the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, bless with thine all-powerful aid, our rulers; may they be indeed ministers of good. Give to them wisdom to perceive,

and integrity to pursue, the measures most conducive to our best interests; and may we be that happy people, whose God is the Lord.

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We pray for the sick, that thou wouldst be their great Physician; and for the afflicted, that thou wouldst give them that consolation, which the world cannot give nor take away.

We would again commend ourselves to thee. Bow thine heavens, O Lord, and come down. Be in the midst of us, to hear the prayers which we offer as the disciples of Jesus Christ; ascribing to thee, the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, praises everlasting. Amen.

Prayer after Sermon.

Ever living, and ever blessed Lord our God! We again come to seek a parent's face and a parent's blessing. We would acknowledge our entire dependence on thee. We thank thee for the privileges of public worship; and wilt thou, who hast given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to thee; and hast promised, that where two or three are gathered together in thy Son's name, thou wilt grant their requests; fulfil, now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this

world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

Benediction.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of his Holy Spirit, be with you all forever. Amen.

Morning Prayer for a School.

GOD of the morning! we would raise our thoughts to thee, in adoration of thy perfections, and in thankful remembrance of thy goodness to the children of men. Every morning and every moment affords evidence of the greatness, and the glory, and the benignity of thy character. Thou createdst all things, and for thy pleasure they were created. The heavens are thine; the earth also is thine; we ourselves are thy offspring, and we rejoice that we may address thee as our Father. Our natural and moral powers, and all our means of happiness and improvement, are the effects of thy paternal kindness. It is thou alone who makest us to dwell in safety, and to enjoy the blessings which thy goodness hath bestowed. Thou carest for all; thou blessest all. It is owing to thy protection and favour, that we behold this day, with

the advantages and pleasures which accompany it. And now that we are assembled here, we would commit ourselves to the direction of thy good providence. We pray for thy continued support and guidance. May we feel, as we ought, our dependence on thee; our constant and increasing obligations. May we remember that thine eye is never for a moment withdrawn from us; that thou art intimately acquainted with all that we do, with all that we say, and with all that we think. May this thought habitually influence us, and dispose us to give a right direction to all our powers.

Author of all good, let thy blessings rest upon these youths. Make them to go in the path of thy commandments. May they early aequaint themselves with thee, the God of their fathers. May they have correct sentiments of thy paternal character. Suffer them not to forget their duty to thee, who hast never forgotten to be good and merciful unto them. Suffer them not, Source of all good influences, to misuse their time, or to abuse their talents, by indulging in negligence, or in vicious and irregular habits. Keep them in thy fear. Let them not depart from innocence and virtue. May they properly estimate and improve their advantages for gaining knowledge. May they be inspired with a generous and noble

ardour to excel in what will make them wise, and useful, and happy. May they search for knowledge, as a treasure of immense value. May they have that fear of thee, which is the instruction of wisdom. We pray that a meek, docile, and humble spirit may mark their principles and character, and that thou wouldst keep them from the evil of sin. By their improvement in good learning, by the correctness of their morals, and by the habitual regularity of their deportment, may they be solicitous to gratify the desires, and hopes, and expectations of their parents and friends; and especially, may they secure the approbation and acceptance of thee, their best friend and benefactor. God of truth, will it please thee to guide their feet in the way of truth and holiness, to make them instruments of much good in the world, and to prepare them all for that inheritance, which can never be lost nor impaired. Hear us through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Advocate. Amen.

Evening Prayer for a School.

Father in heaven! we thank thee for the pleasures and blessings of the day, which is now drawing near its close. By thy care and kindness, another day has been allowed us for the

pursuit of useful knowledge, and may we not be insensible of our increased obligations to love and serve thee, and to be faithful in the use of the talents, which thou hast given us. If any of us have this day been careless and inconsiderate; if we have misimproved or wasted these valuable hours, we pray thee to forgive us, on our sorrow for our faults. May we consider our ways and be wise. May the young more fully appreciate their privileges, and by reflecting with regret on the time they may have thoughtlessly thrown away, may they be excited to unwearied attention for the future. May those who are habitually industrious, who are frugal of their time, never grow weary in this way of welldoing. May these youths wisely consider, that time is a treasure, which, if lost, can never be regained; and that the present time is all, of which they can promise themselves assured possession. May they be solicitous to perform what duty requires of them, and may they consider diligent application to their studies, as a duty not to be disregarded.

We thank thee, Source of wisdom and virtue, for the pleasures which are intimately associated with the improvement of the mind and heart. May each one present deserve, and deserving, share these pleasures. And now that they are

about to depart from this place, may they think seriously on the flight of time, that every day carries them nearer to the maturity of life, and to its closing scene; and may thoughts and reflections like these, have powerful influence in leading their thoughts to God, in promoting that sobermindedness and piety, which are peculiarly ornamental in early life. God of mercy! have them, we beseech thee, in thy holy keeping. May their early impressions be such, as will guard them against the allurements of vice, and against those evil communications, which corrupt the heart, and vitiate the morals.

God of our fathers! bless the parents of these youths. May they be faithful in the watchfulness and instruction of their offspring. May they give them such wise counsel, and set before them such virtuous examples, that their children, by obedient lives and well ordered conversation, may be prepared for whatever shall await them here, and finally secure thy favour which is life, and thy lovingkindness which is better than life.

O thou who art always ready to pardon the penitent, forgive us our sins. Forgive us that we so often disregard our duty, and violate thy commands. May we be truly sorry for every thing that we have said, or thought, or done, which is offensive to thee; and hereafter

let us deviate no more from the path of religious wisdom. May we remember thine eye is ever upon us, and that we are all accountable to thee. Having done thy will on earth, and finished the work assigned us, may we be prepared to partake in the felicities of the heavenly state, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Funeral Prayer.

O THOU, who livest whilst mortals die; who alone possessest independent immortality! Eternal God! we bow before thee as the Supreme Disposer of all events. Believing that nothing can come to pass through the whole extent of thy works, without thy knowledge and influence, we desire to learn well the lesson thou art now teaching us. Thou doest thy will in the armies of heaven above, and among the inhabitants of the earth below. None can stay thine hand, or say unto thee, What doest thou?

Thou hast been pleased, in great wisdom and in awful justice, to appoint unto all men once to die, and after death, the judgment. Thou hast said to the whole human race, Dust ye are, and to dust ye shall return. Grant that when we see this awful sentence put in execution, when we are conveying our friends, relations, or acquaint-

ance to the silent grave; we may be seriously reminded of our own mortality, and thereby, be excited to work the work of thee our God, while it is day, since the night of death is coming, in which no man can work. O may we remember that now is the accepted time, and now is the day of our salvation. May our lives be those of the righteous, and our last end be like his; and when *our* turn shall come to enter this house, appointed for all the living, may we have in our mouths the triumphant song of the Christian, O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Thanks be to God, who hath given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God, who hath begotten us to the lively hope of immortality in his Son. Thanks be to God, that death could not retain the Saviour, but that a power stronger than death, a power higher than nature, raised him from the dead, thereby establishing our hope. Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God. Glory be to God in the highest, that life and immortality are now brought to light; and that we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Unchangeable God! In the awful presence of death, we feel our entire dependence on thee; and while we witness that the glory of man passeth away as the flower of the grass; we feel the value of the assurance, that thy word shall never pass away. Thou remainest to the living and the dead, the same God; the Protector and Father of all; faithfully keeping those whom thou takest away, and offering consolation to those who are left. To whom but thee, shall we address ourselves in this hour of our sorrow?

Sanctify, O Lord, we beseech thee, this bereaving dispensation of thy providence, to those from whom thou hast taken a near relative by death. O may they be comforted in this day of affliction, by the consolations of religion. May they remember that thou knowest when it is best to call thy children to thyself; and that thy chastisements are chastisements of love. May they, and may we, consider this instance of mortality, as a friendly admonition to us, to be also ready.

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Lord of life! We would now commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father of mercies! while thou art continuing us here, we would cultivate an habitual resignation to thy holy will; believing thou art all wisdom in thyself, all goodness toward thy creatures. Having our hearts thus fixed, stayed upon thee, may we be prepared to meet all the events of life with devout composure; and be prepared to follow those who have gone before us.

O may we have a firm confidence in thee, the Rock of ages, the resting-place of all generations; and be always disposed to say, Not our wills, but thine, be done.—The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

Holy Father! may we pass the rest of our time in thy fear and love; and when called to lie down in the grave, may we lie down in hope, that when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, we shall hear the welcome invitation of the Saviour,—Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Hear us, O God, through him who died that we might live; through whom to thee be glory and dominion forever. Amen.

END.

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